

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

-----x.  
:  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, : Criminal Action No.  
:  
Plaintiff, : 1:21-cr-245  
:  
versus : October 13, 2022,  
:  
IGOR Y. DANCHENKO, :  
:  
Defendant. : Volume 3 (PM Session)  
: Pages 729 - 895  
-----x

TRANSCRIPT OF JURY TRIAL  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE ANTHONY J. TRENGA  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

A P P E A R A N C E S

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**A F T E R N O O N P R O C E E D I N G S**

(Court proceedings commenced at 1:06 p.m.)

THE COURT: Anything before we proceed?

MR. DURHAM: Just one matter, Your Honor. The court deputy was good enough to let us know. I think we read Government Exhibit 1811, the stipulation into the record, but it wasn't formally moved. So we would move it.

THE COURT: All right. The Court will admit 1811. (Government Exhibit No. 1811 admitted into evidence.)

THE COURT: Anything else? All right. Let's have the witness be brought in, please.

MR. DURHAM: Would Your Honor prefer that we have the witnesses in here after the recess before you come out?

THE COURT: Well, no, because -- unless there's something to talk about, never quite know, so...

Let's bring the jury in.

THE CSO: Yes, sir.

(Witness seated.)

(Jury present.)

THE COURT: All right. Please be seated. Agent Helson, you remain under oath. Mr. Durham.

MR. DURHAM: Thank you, Your Honor.

**DIRECT EXAMINATION**

BY MR. DURHAM:

Q. Special Agent Helson, I'll pick up where we were just

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1 breaking off at the time of the luncheon recess.

2 MR. DURHAM: I'd ask Ms. Arsenault to just quickly  
3 bring up Government Exhibit 610T, please.

4 BY MR. DURHAM:

5 Q. When we broke, we were looking at what has been marked as  
6 Government's Exhibit 610T. This is, again, from Ms. Galkina  
7 in the first instance and then Mr. Danchenko's response,  
8 correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And so just to pick up at the very bottom of the body,  
11 the response of Mr. Danchenko to Ms. Galkina reads how?

12 A. (As read): "I will try if I can get through directly  
13 possibly through Viber or WhatsApp."

14 Q. Okay. I want you to take a look at Government's  
15 Exhibit 611 for identification, not yet a full exhibit.

16 And looking at Government 611 for identification, do  
17 you recognize that as one of the Facebook business records  
18 that you received during the time that you were working as  
19 Mr. Danchenko's handler?

20 A. I did not see that until the trial prep.

21 Q. Okay. Till trial prep.

22 Do you know where it came from, though?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Where did it come from?

25 A. It's from his Facebook account.

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1 Q. Okay. And looking at Government's Exhibit 611, is there  
2 a portion of that document reflecting whether or not  
3 Mr. Danchenko is communicating any information to somebody  
4 about the use of an app?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And there are multiple entries. For purposes of the  
7 record, which entry is it where Mr. Danchenko is making the  
8 reference to use an app or the use of an app?

9 A. It was the one where he is stating to Alex, (As read):  
10 "Hi, Alex, I'm sorry, but I'll be in Britain next week.  
11 Perhaps we can discuss a couple of things here (or on Signal)  
12 or obviously by phone, and then follow up towards the end of  
13 April."

14 MR. DURHAM: Your Honor, the Government would move  
15 611 as a full exhibit.

16 THE COURT: Any objection?

17 MR. SEARS: No objection.

18 THE COURT: Without objection, 611 is in.

19 (Government's Exhibit No. 611 was admitted into evidence.)

20 MR. DURHAM: And, Ms. Arsenault, if you would blow  
21 up, if you would, or enlarge the entry that Mr. Helson was  
22 just referring to.

23 BY MR. DURHAM:

24 Q. Okay. So with respect to what's on the jury's monitors  
25 now, that's the entry in this Facebook, correct?

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1 A. Correct.

2 Q. This is, "I'm sorry, but I'll be in Britain next week.

3 Perhaps we can discuss a couple of things here (or on Signal),  
4 or obviously by phone."

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Is that consistent with your knowledge of Mr. Danchenko  
7 that as far as you know, if he wanted somebody to use Signal,  
8 he'd -- use an app, he would tell them?

9 A. Yes.

10 MR. DURHAM: Government's -- I'd ask that. . .

11 (Counsel confers.)

12 MR. DURHAM: We ask that 612.

13 THE COURT: Any objection?

14 MR. SEARS: No, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Without objection 612, 612T.

16 (Government's Exhibit Nos. 612, 612T were admitted into  
17 evidence.)

18 THE COURT: Do you want. . .

19 MR. DURHAM: Oh, all right.

20 BY MR. DURHAM:

21 Q. In that connection, sir, take a look at what is now --  
22 well, 612, if you look at that first, does that appear to be  
23 in Russian?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Are you a Russian speaker or no?

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1 A. No.

2 Q. And look at 612, it's translation of a certain portion of  
3 612, correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And this relates to -- well, it's on the monitor, but  
6 will you read into the record what, in this instance,  
7 Mr. Danchenko is saying?

8 A. In the body, it says, (As read): "About work, yes, let's  
9 do it, but it is a very delicate topic. Maybe you have Signal  
10 or Mail. It is better -- it's better not to write here at  
11 all."

12 Q. Okay. So if there's a sensitive subject matter you want  
13 to talk about, at least, in this instance, he'd say use Signal  
14 or Mail, correct?

15 A. Correct, yes.

16 Q. With respect to the emails that you were reviewing before  
17 the luncheon recess that Mr. Danchenko sent to the Millian  
18 group, any reference to using Signal, WhatsApp, Viber, any of  
19 the other applications?

20 A. No, no.

21 Q. Just his -- just his name, his telephone number, and an  
22 email address?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Now, with respect to Signal -- I guess I'm assuming. Do  
25 you know what Signal is?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What is Signal?

3 A. It's an encrypted app in which parties can communicate  
4 back and forth in an encrypted format that's -- erases once  
5 you -- you're done with it.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And it's untraceable.

8 Q. And for those folks that don't use applications, ones  
9 who are -- maybe one of them, but are there like a handful of  
10 these things or not, if you know?

11 A. There's more than a handful. It's a bunch. They come  
12 and go, but there's some -- like a handful of poplar ones,  
13 yes.

14 Q. Okay. But there are many, many apps out there?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. All right. Now, you have testified earlier that  
17 you had had several meetings with Mr. Danchenko where the  
18 meetings were recorded, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. I want to go to the third one. You heard the date of  
21 June 15th of 2017. Did that sound about right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. I want to jump out of chronological order for  
24 a minute, though, all right?

25 A. Okay.

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1 Q. When you would meet with Mr. Danchenko, when you were a  
2 co-handler, would meet with Mr. Danchenko, what if any  
3 practices did you follow in connection with recording,  
4 memorializing what was said and done at meetings after the  
5 third purported meeting had taken place?

6 A. In the few instances that I wanted to notate actual  
7 words, that I would use quotes in my reports if I needed to  
8 memorialize a statement that was made.

9 Q. Okay. So, again, you had recorded the first three  
10 meetings as you've referenced, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And why did you stop, then, recording meetings with  
13 Mr. Danchenko?

14 A. We began seeing a decrease in topics where the dossier  
15 was becoming less and less, and so most of the conversations  
16 going forward after we stopped became more non-dossier  
17 related.

18 Q. Okay. And so you didn't find the need --

19 A. Need to record it.

20 Q. -- to record.

21 I want to direct your attention to the date of  
22 October 24th of 2017, and if it would help refresh your  
23 recollection, if you look in the index of exhibits,  
24 Government's Exhibit 102.

25 A. 102. Okay. Yes.

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1 Q. Now, without saying, you know, what's on that piece of  
2 paper, do you recognize Government's Exhibit 102?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you recognize whose work product that is?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And whose work product is it?

7 A. It's mine.

8 Q. And in connection with that information and that  
9 document, did you have occasion to refresh your recollection  
10 as to its content?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. With respect to the content that's in that report, does  
13 it reflect a meeting that occurred on a particular date?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And what was that date?

16 A. October 24, 2017.

17 Q. With respect to meeting with Mr. -- well, withdrawn.

18 Was that an in-person, face-to-face meeting or was  
19 that through some kind of use of a telephone facility?

20 A. It was in person.

21 Q. And with regard to the October 24th, 2020 -- '17 meeting,  
22 do you recall in what geographical area that had occurred?

23 A. In Alexandria.

24 Q. All right. So, again, at -- here in the Eastern District  
25 of Virginia?

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1 A. Correct.

2 Q. The content or the information that's contained in this  
3 document true and accurate to the best of your recollection?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You told the jurors that with respect to your  
6 memorializing things, if it was significant, you would put it  
7 in quotes or word for word, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Do you recall, sir, based on the independent recollection  
10 or review of Government's Exhibit 102, whether or not, in  
11 October of 2017, you, once again, had occasion to go back and  
12 make inquiry regarding what Mr. Danchenko had to say about an  
13 anonymous call?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And was -- do you remember, was there something that  
16 precipitated you're doing that in October of 2017?

17 A. It was a conversation I had had with Mr. Auten, Brian  
18 Auten, and this was the time that he had asked me to go back  
19 and clarify, yet again, the details surrounding the  
20 conversation that Mr. Danchenko allegedly had with Millian  
21 over the phone.

22 Q. And did you do that on or about October 24th of 2017?

23 A. I did.

24 Q. Do you recall, sir -- this just goes to a yes or no, do  
25 you recall whether or not Mr. Danchenko made statements to you

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1 on that date, again, on this same subject matter of contact  
2 with Millian or somebody that he claimed to believe was  
3 Millian?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury, what, to the  
6 best of your recollection, Mr. Danchenko said to you on  
7 October 24th, 2017, concerning contact with Millian?

8 A. That the conversation was -- that he had had a  
9 conversation with an individual he believed to be Sergei  
10 Millian, and he had done so -- he made that assertion after  
11 listening to, I think, a YouTube video of Mr. Millian giving a  
12 speech. And the individual on the phone sounded very similar  
13 to him, so. . .

14 Q. And do you recall what, if anything, else Mr. Danchenko  
15 said that day about his contact, who the person he claims to  
16 believe was Mr. Millian?

17 A. There was a part of the questioning that we had asked,  
18 did he have any personal meet -- face-to-face meeting. He  
19 said no.

20 We confronted that because it was inconsistent with  
21 what we were hearing from Mr. Steele, and he also told us that  
22 Mr. Steele believed that was because he never corrected  
23 Mr. Steele's statement or idea that there was an in-person  
24 meeting in New York, and I believe it was in South Carolina.

25 Q. All right. I'd ask you to take a look at 102 again and

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1 see whether the information that you just provided to the jury  
2 occurred on that date or a later date.

3 A. It was on October 24th when we had this conversation.

4 Q. Okay. You had the conversation with Mr. Danchenko on the  
5 24th. Do you have occasion on that date to put anything in  
6 quotes --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- because you wanted to be completely accurate as to  
9 exactly what it was that Mr. Danchenko said?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Are you confident that what you put in quotes or recorded  
12 in quotes was completely accurate as to what Mr. Danchenko  
13 told you on October 24th of 2017?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And what is it that Mr. Danchenko told you on  
16 October 24th, 2017, concerning any contact with Mr. Millian?

17 A. The first question I asked, I said, you never met with  
18 him in D.C.

19 Response was no.

20 I asked, so did you ever meet with him in Virginia.

21 The response was no.

22 I asked, so did you ever meet with him in South  
23 Carolina.

24 The answer was no.

25 I asked, so you never met Sergei Millian

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1 face-to-face anywhere in the north or south United States.

2 The response was no.

3 Q. Okay. And had you also asked him about and quoted what  
4 Mr. Danchenko said relating to ever meeting him in person?

5 A. I had asked, how many times did you meet face-to-face  
6 with Sergei Millian.

7 He stated that I did not meet with him ever in  
8 person. I believe I spoke to him on the phone a couple of  
9 times, at least someone who I thought was him. But when I  
10 was -- I scheduled a meeting, time, and place in New York,  
11 Millian never showed.

12 Q. Okay. And with respect to what you've just testified  
13 before the jurors, I did not meet with him ever in person, I  
14 believe I spoke to him on the phone a couple of times, at  
15 least someone I thought was him, that's in quotes, correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Prior to October 24th of 2017, do you recall whether or  
18 not Mr. Millian had ever told you that he had spoken to  
19 Millian a couple of times?

20 A. No.

21 Q. To the best of your knowledge and recollection, based on  
22 your review of the materials that were prepared before you  
23 started to serve as Mr. Millian's handler, did you ever see  
24 anything in any of the Bureau of Records reflecting that prior  
25 to October 24th of 2017, that Mr. Millian -- I'm sorry,

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1 Mr. Danchenko had ever said that he had spoken with Millian on  
2 the phone a couple of times?

3 A. No.

4 Q. You memorialize that in a report in quotes, correct?

5 A. I did.

6 Q. As you sit here today, sir, how confident are you that  
7 Mr. Danchenko told you on October 24th that he had spoken to  
8 the person that he believed to be Mr. Millian a couple of  
9 times?

10 A. I'm very confident.

11 Q. Do you recall, sir, whether or not after October 24th, if  
12 you had yet another occasion to talk to Mr. Danchenko where  
13 the information relating to what essentially is Dossier Report  
14 2016/95 that is about Millian came up?

15 A. On October 24th?

16 Q. After October 24th?

17 A. It may have been November time frame.

18 Q. If you take a look at Government's Exhibit 103 and see if  
19 that refresh your recollection as to whether or not there was  
20 yet another occasion that you raised or asked questions of  
21 Mr. Danchenko relating to these matters?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And when was it that you met with Mr. Danchenko and  
24 Millian came up again?

25 A. I'm looking at the wrong --

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1 Q. Do you have Government's Exhibit 103 there?

2 A. I have one -- oh, here we go, yes.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. So it's November the 2nd.

5 Q. Okay. So why don't you just take a moment and look at  
6 that and see if that refreshes your recollection as to the  
7 date which you met with Mr. Danchenko and the Millian matter  
8 came up yet again?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And what was the date?

11 A. November the 2nd, 2017.

12 Q. All right. And on November 2nd, 2017, was that some kind  
13 of telephone connection or was that a face-to-face meeting?

14 A. That was a face-to-face.

15 Q. So you are with him? He's not like -- no interference in  
16 the phone or anything, right?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Do you recall, sir, why it was that you had occasion to  
19 go back to, yet again, ask about this Millian piece in  
20 November of 2017?

21 A. There had been -- this, I think, goes to the fact that  
22 Brian was still saying there was inconsistency in what  
23 Mr. Danchenko was saying as opposed to what Mr. Steele was  
24 saying with respect to Millian's -- his connection or his  
25 contact with Millian.

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1 Q. And so tell the ladies and gentlemen of the jury on  
2 November 2nd now, of 2017 -- on October 24th, he now says that  
3 there were a couple of calls. Now, on November 2nd, you're  
4 confronting him now about what he told Steele regarding him  
5 actually meeting with Millian, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And with respect to what you were asking Mr. Danchenko on  
8 November 2nd, what is it that Mr. Danchenko told you regarding  
9 Steele and what he had told Steele or not told Steele about  
10 meeting with Millian?

11 A. He said that Steele had the idea -- that Steele believes  
12 that Mr. Danchenko had met in person and he never corrected  
13 Mr. Steele's thought in that, is that he was pretty much tired  
14 of talking about it. He -- Steele was pressuring him to  
15 answer questions that Steele -- that Millian could potentially  
16 answer.

17 So the pressure was get with Millian, get a report,  
18 and Igor was -- I let him have what I -- I told him what I  
19 know and he still believed that I was in -- it was an  
20 in-person meeting and I never corrected him because I was  
21 tired of talking about it.

22 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, I apologize to interrupt,  
23 but to the extent Mr. Steele's comments are coming in, my  
24 understanding is that they would not be for the truth of the  
25 matter asserted --

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1 THE COURT: Correct.

2 MR. SEARS: -- just because the agent heard --

3 THE COURT: Right.

4 MR. SEARS: It might be appropriate to inform the  
5 jury.

6 THE COURT: Right. Ladies and Gentlemen, any  
7 statements that are attributed to Mr. Steele not being  
8 admitted for the purposes of establishing the truth of those  
9 statements, but simply for the fact that they were made.

10 BY MR. DURHAM:

11 Q. Okay. So that's the Steele part. But with respect to  
12 what Mr. Danchenko said, did you indicate that he told you  
13 that when Steele says, talking about Mr. Danchenko, meeting  
14 personally with Millian, Mr. Danchenko never corrected him on  
15 that?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. But he's claiming to the FBI that he, in fact, never met  
18 the person, right?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Do you recall, sir, what your reaction was to learning  
21 that?

22 A. It was consistent with what I felt was a trend in the  
23 reporting with respect to the dossier. The idea that Steele  
24 was really trying to prove it, even during that time period,  
25 because he wanted it to be real or be true, and that was

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1 putting pressure on Danchenko to give him that information.

2 Q. Okay. But it's clear in your mind, as you sit here now,  
3 that he said he never corrected Steele, but Steele's  
4 understanding that he, Mr. Danchenko, had actually met with  
5 Millian?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And aside from Mr. Danchenko having talked to Mr. Steele  
8 about meeting or not meeting with Mr. Millian, anything in  
9 your investigation that would suggest in any way that Steele  
10 had any information about Millian other than what was coming  
11 from Mr. Danchenko?

12 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, I'm going to object. He was  
13 not part of the --

14 THE COURT: Sustained.

15 BY MR. DURHAM:

16 Q. Based on your interactions with Mr. Danchenko, your  
17 review of the files, your discussions with the fellow agents,  
18 did you ever come across any information that would suggest  
19 that Mr. Steele had information other than what came from  
20 Mr. Danchenko?

21 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, same objection as to what  
22 other agents may have told him.

23 THE COURT: Well, I'm going to -- I'm going to  
24 sustain the objection. Go ahead.

25 MR. DURHAM: Very well. We'll move on.

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1 BY MR. DURHAM:

2 Q. Now -- okay. Just before I leave the subject of  
3 Mr. Millian, do you recall whether or not Mr. Danchenko had  
4 indicated how long this purported call was that he had with  
5 the person he said he believed was Millian?

6 A. My recollection was about 15 minutes.

7 Q. Okay. Now, let me turn your attention to another matter.

8 Do you recall, sir, whether or not during the course  
9 of your eliciting information from Mr. Danchenko, whether or  
10 not an individual by the name of Charles Dolan came up?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And with respect to your involvement with Mr. Dolan, did  
13 you know anything or did you know the name Charles Dolan  
14 before the -- you became involved in the investigation itself?

15 A. No.

16 Q. And then during the course of the investigation, did  
17 Mr. Dolan come up?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And what's your best recollection as to how you first  
20 became aware of the name Charles Dolan?

21 A. I believe that was through members of the Crossfire  
22 Hurricane team.

23 Q. And what's your best recollection as to whether or not  
24 Mr. Danchenko brought Mr. Dolan's name up at any point in time  
25 before you brought it up?

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1 A. I don't think -- he didn't bring it up to me.

2 Q. With respect to Mr. Dolan, you've told the jurors that  
3 one of the principal focuses of your inquiry, your work trying  
4 to illicit information from Mr. Danchenko related to trying to  
5 identify sources, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And why was it that you were so interested in getting  
8 sources, the identity of sources?

9 A. The goal is to get the identity of the sources so that we  
10 could corroborate any of the allegations that were being made  
11 in the Steele dossier.

12 Q. With respect to the sources that have been developed up  
13 until, say, the middle of June of 2017, do you recall, sir,  
14 whether any of the sources that had been identified up to that  
15 point were resident in the United States?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Would it have been of any significance to you or  
18 assistance to you to have the identity of anybody -- or  
19 somebody in the United States --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- whose information may have been in the dossier?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And why is that?

24 A. It's much easier to make contact with those people than  
25 it would be from someone inside of Russia.

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1 Q. Okay. I want to ask you, sir, with respect to the --  
2 going back in time now to the third recorded conversation --

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. -- with Mr. Danchenko, do you recall on or about the date  
5 that that third recorded conversation took place?

6 A. Was it in May or June?

7 Q. If you were to see a transcript of portions of the  
8 recording, might that refresh your recollection?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Take a look, if you would, sir, to Government's  
11 Exhibit 171T.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Having taken a look at 171T, tell us whether or not that  
14 refreshes your recollection as to when the third recorded  
15 conversation was made?

16 A. It was in June 15th, 2017.

17 Q. Do you recall, Special Agent Helson, with respect to that  
18 date, June 15th of 2017, and this recording, where that  
19 occurred?

20 A. That was also in Northern Virginia in the Alexandria  
21 area, so in the Eastern District.

22 Q. Okay. And so you meet with them in the Eastern District  
23 of New York -- or Eastern District of Virginia, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And do you recall, in that particular meeting, whether it

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1 was you and Mr. Danchenko or any other persons who were there?

2 A. It was me, Mr. Danchenko, and Jason Rhule.

3 MR. DURHAM: It's spelled R-h-u-l-e.

4 BY MR. DURHAM:

5 Q. What do you recall about the meeting with Mr. Danchenko  
6 on June 15th of 2017?

7 A. That was one of the -- I think that may have been the  
8 first meeting I brought up Chuck Dolan.

9 Q. Okay. Now, I want to ask you a few questions before we  
10 get to that recording, if I might.

11 At some point in time, you became aware of the fact  
12 that there were emails exchanged between Mr. Danchenko and  
13 Mr. Dolan; is that a fair statement?

14 A. That is a fair statement.

15 Q. Did that occur before or after you were Mr. Danchenko's  
16 handler?

17 A. After.

18 Q. At any time -- to the best of your recollection, at any  
19 time when Mr. Danchenko was meeting with you, he didn't bring  
20 the Dolan's name up or emails?

21 A. He didn't bring any emails up, no.

22 Q. And during the course of your trying to elicit  
23 information from Mr. Danchenko, beginning in March of 2017 and  
24 now we're up to June 15th of 2017, was Mr. Danchenko being  
25 paid to right along?

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1 A. Yes.

2 MR. DURHAM: I want to ask Ms. Arsenault to quickly  
3 bring up Government's Exhibit 712A, which is a full exhibit in  
4 this case.

5 BY MR. DURHAM:

6 Q. And taking a look at Government's Exhibit 712A, which the  
7 jury has seen a couple of times now, I'd just ask you: This  
8 is from who to who?

9 A. This is from Igor Danchenko to Chuck -- Charles Dolan.

10 Q. And what's the date?

11 A. August 19th, 2016.

12 Q. On August 19th of 2016, was Igor Danchenko a paid  
13 informant for the FBI?

14 A. No.

15 Q. In August of 2016?

16 A. No.

17 Q. He wasn't being paid?

18 A. Igor Danchenko?

19 Q. Oh, I said Igor -- Igor Danchenko, yeah.

20 A. Yeah, not in August of 2016, no.

21 Q. In August of '16 -- I'm -- oh, that's right. I'm sorry.

22 When you met with him on June 15th of 2017 -- thank  
23 you for correcting that -- was he a paid informant?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. He was being paid, but he had been paid from -- by the

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1 Bureau starting back in March, correct?

2 A. March, correct.

3 Q. So when you met with him on June 15th of 2017, he was  
4 sitting there as a paid Bureau informant, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. He was supposed to be giving you information --

7 A. Information.

8 Q. -- on the dossier, correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And you were most interested in --

11 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, I'm going to object to the  
12 leading nature of the question.

13 THE COURT: You are leading, Mr. Durham.

14 MR. DURHAM: Yes, Your Honor.

15 BY MR. DURHAM:

16 Q. At that time, what were your interests? And when I say  
17 "at that time," on June 15th and prior to that, in dealing  
18 with Mr. Danchenko, what were your interests relating to the  
19 dossier?

20 A. To identify the sources that contributed to the dossier  
21 and anything that he knew about them.

22 Q. Okay. So you look at Government's Exhibit 712A, you've  
23 identified Mr. Danchenko as the -- who's sending it and the  
24 recipient being Dolan, correct?

25 A. Correct.

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1 Q. I'd ask you to read the second paragraph now to your --  
2 you can read it into the record, if you would.

3 A. Okay. It says (As read): "Could you please ask someone  
4 to commit -- to comment on Paul Manafort's resignation and  
5 anything on Trump campaign. Off the record, of course, any  
6 thought, rumor or allegation. I am working on a related  
7 project against Trump. I ask Greg three months ago, but he  
8 didn't say much, although I shared a couple of valuable  
9 insights."

10 Q. All right.

11 MR. DURHAM: And then I'm going to ask that  
12 Ms. Arsenault bring up Government's Exhibit 712B.

13 BY MR. DURHAM:

14 Q. And ask you to take a look at it.

15 Again, at the time on June 15, 2017, you hadn't seen  
16 this, correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Anybody from Crossfire Hurricane showing this to you?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Do you know if Crossfire Hurricane investigators had even  
21 gone to get this?

22 A. I don't -- I didn't know.

23 Q. So what is it that Mr. Dolan says on Friday, August 19,  
24 2016, in response to Mr. Danchenko's request for information?

25 A. He responds and essentially there were -- he says (As

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1 read): "Hi, Igor, the other two were -- I can't say that last  
2 name, a minister of the eco-development and iris Tutor,  
3 Ombudsman RF. Let me dig around on Manafort. Pretty sure the  
4 new team wanted him gone ASAP and used today's New York Times  
5 story to drive a stake in his heart."

6 Q. Okay. So that's on August 19th. That request goes from  
7 Mr. Danchenko for any thought, rumor, or allegation relating  
8 to Manafort, correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And now Mr. Dolan is going to check around for him on  
11 that, correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. All right.

14 MR. DURHAM: I'm going to ask that Ms. Arsenault  
15 then bring up Government's Exhibit 713A, which is already a  
16 full exhibit.

17 BY MR. DURHAM:

18 Q. And ask you to quickly look at that. So this is from  
19 Mr. Dolan to Mr. Danchenko, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And would you read the first paragraph into the record?  
22 Again, the jury has seen this, but I want to ask you questions  
23 about it.

24 A. Okay. (As read): "I had a drink with a GOP friend of  
25 mine who knows some of the players and got some of what is in

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1 this article, which provides even more detail. She also told  
2 me that Corey Lewandowski, who hates Manafort and still speaks  
3 to Trump regularly and played a role. He is said to be doing  
4 a happy dance over it."

5 Q. Now, in this connection, Mr. Dolan, at this point, what  
6 did you -- what do you glean from this email, that is Dolan's  
7 response to Mr. Danchenko's request --

8 A. Request, yes.

9 Q. -- for thoughts, rumors or allegations about Manafort?

10 A. That it's the response --

11 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, I'm going to object to this  
12 question. I think the email speaks for itself.

13 THE COURT: Sustained. This is something he  
14 hadn't -- he didn't have at the time, correct?

15 MR. DURHAM: That's correct, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Right. I'm sustaining the objection.

17 BY MR. DURHAM:

18 Q. With respect to this email, would that be something that  
19 you would have been interested in on June 15th of 2017?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. But you didn't have -- did you have it or not?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did you ever get that other than recently?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay. Then I want to direct your attention to

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1 Governments Exhibit 714. And looking at Government 714,  
2 that's -- what's the date of that?

3 A. August the 20th, 2016.

4 Q. And this is Mr. Dolan responding to Mr. Danchenko?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And he says he'll let him know if he has anything else?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Do you know, sir -- or at the time, did you know whether  
9 or not there was any information that then appeared in any of  
10 the dossier reports relating in some way to these emails?

11 A. Not until you showed me.

12 Q. And you're looking at Dossier Report 2016/105 that the  
13 jury is seeing. Do you recall whether or not you have looked  
14 at and read a particular paragraph in that report?

15 A. Yeah, I think so. I may be --

16 Q. Let me pull it up for you.

17 Looking at what's on the monitor now, would it have  
18 been of value and interest to you in June of 2017, when  
19 meeting with Mr. Danchenko, for you to have had that  
20 information?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What about paragraph 3 that's on the screen now from  
23 Government's Exhibit 112 that's of significance to you -- or  
24 is of significance to you?

25 A. It's similar to the email exchange between Mr. Danchenko

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1 and Chuck Dolan.

2 Q. And with respect to sourcing, what, if anything, is  
3 there in that that is of interest?

4 A. It would imply that Chuck Dolan was a source of that  
5 paragraph.

6 Q. And that paragraph includes reference to an American  
7 political figure associated with Donald Trump and his  
8 campaign, correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Would an American political figure associated with Donald  
11 Trump and his campaign been of any interest or value to the  
12 FBI on June 15th of 2017?

13 A. Yes, I believe so.

14 Q. In fact, on June -- do you recall whether or not there  
15 was any ongoing active investigation being conducted relating  
16 to these matters on June 15th of 2017?

17 A. The Mr. Mueller investigation.

18 Q. Okay. But you never got this information, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. What's the date at the bottom of Government's  
21 Exhibit 112?

22 A. August 22, 2016.

23 Q. And how many days after the emails that you just looked  
24 at would this report have been dated?

25 A. Two days.

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1 Q. Now, with regard to or with respect to Mr. Dolan, you  
2 told the jurors earlier, just before we quickly went through  
3 those emails, that on June 15th of 2017, you had raised, for  
4 the first time, Chuck Dolan's -- Charles Dolan's name,  
5 correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Describe, if you would, to the jurors, whether that was  
8 something that you did on your own or you did that at the  
9 request, direction of somebody else.

10 A. I did it at the request in direction of -- it would have  
11 been the Mueller investigative team.

12 Q. And who were you dealing with -- who would you be  
13 interacting with most directly to get questions to pose to  
14 Mr. Danchenko?

15 A. It was a couple of people: Brian Auten and Amy Anderson.

16 Q. And who is Amy Anderson?

17 A. She was a special agent -- I think she may have been an  
18 SSA that was assigned to Mr. Mueller's team.

19 Q. All right. And for the benefit of the jurors, the  
20 acronym SSA stands for?

21 A. Supervisory special agent.

22 Q. So Ms. Anderson was a bureau supervisor --

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. -- that was working over once the Crossfire Hurricane  
25 team merged into Mueller group, correct?

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1 A. Correct.

2 Q. I want to ask you to please take a look, if you would,  
3 sir, at what was premarked as Government's Exhibit 171T, and  
4 ask you to look in the notebook as well to see, sir, if you  
5 have, in there, a disk that's marked Government's Exhibit 171.

6 A. I do.

7 Q. Do you recognize Government's Exhibit 171?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. How do you recognize it?

10 A. It has my initials on it.

11 Q. Have you had occasion to listen to that recording and  
12 compare it against the transcript marked Government's  
13 Exhibit 171T for identification?

14 A. I did.

15 Q. What can you tell the jury about the transcript and the  
16 CD?

17 A. It is consistent -- the transcript is consistent with  
18 what's on the recording.

19 Q. And the date of the recording?

20 A. Is June 15, 2017.

21 Q. And the participants?

22 A. Would be myself, Igor Danchenko, and Jason Rhule.

23 MR. DURHAM: Your Honor, the government would move  
24 171 as a full exhibit and 171T as an aid to the jury.

25 THE COURT: Without objection, 171 and 171T is



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1 admitted.

2 (Government's Exhibit Nos. 171, 171T, were admitted into  
3 evidence.)

4 MR. DURHAM: With the Court's permission, we would  
5 ask that Ms. Arsenault be permitted to play 171.

6 THE COURT: Yes.

7 (Exhibit published.)

8 (Audio played.)

9 BY MR. DURHAM:

10 Q. Okay. You recognize that conversation, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. I want to just quickly go through certain portions of it.  
13 This occurred on January -- I'm sorry -- on June 15th of 2017,  
14 correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. At the very beginning of this conversation, you're  
17 eliciting some general information, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And then there is information partway in -- and this is  
20 on Government's Exhibit 171T; I think it's page 4; some of the  
21 pagination gets off a little bit -- but you ask him the  
22 question -- can you find the portion there concerning you  
23 asked him does he know Chuck Dolan?

24 A. Yeah, I'm looking. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. So again, why did you ask him about Chuck Dolan?

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1 A. It was -- the name was brought to me by director --  
2 Special Counsel Mueller's investigative team.

3 Q. Okay. In that regard, by June 15th of 2017, were you  
4 aware of the fact that BuzzFeed had released the dossier  
5 report publicly?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Do you recall, sir, when you asked Mr. Danchenko about  
8 Chuck Dolan, he gave responses they had known each other and  
9 the like, correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Did Mr. Danchenko ever mention to you, to the best of  
12 your recollection, that immediately after the release of the  
13 BuzzFeed information -- let's assume that happened and the  
14 jury's heard that that happened on January 10th -- did  
15 Mr. Danchenko share with you that he then reached out to Dolan  
16 the very next morning, January 11th, to inquire about this?

17 MR. SEARS: I'm going to object. This misstates the  
18 testimony.

19 BY MR. DURHAM:

20 Q. Oh, I'm sorry. Dolan reached out -- that Mr. Dolan had  
21 reached out to Mr. Danchenko?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Would it have been helpful or useful for you to know from  
24 Mr. Danchenko that in the morning after the dossier reports  
25 had been made public through BuzzFeed, that Mr. Dolan had

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1 called Mr. Danchenko?

2 A. Yes, if it was related to the release of the dossier.

3 Q. Specifically about the dossier, would that have been of  
4 note to you?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Why would it have been valued to you to know that?

7 A. Because the objective -- one of the primary objectives  
8 was to identify all of the sources of the dossier and run that  
9 information to ground.

10 Q. Now, the jurors have listened to this recording. Do you  
11 recall, sir, based on your present recollections, when you  
12 first asked Mr. Danchenko, Do you know Chuck Dolan?

13 And then the response was, Do I know Chuck Dolan?  
14 Yeah.

15 And then you said, How long have you known him?  
16 You're kind of chuckling, and then there's a pause.

17 Do you have any recollection as to what  
18 Mr. Danchenko's demeanor was when you first asked him if he  
19 knew Chuck Dolan?

20 A. To the best of my recollection, there was a bit of  
21 hesitation, like he was trying to recall, and then he kind of  
22 slowly started going into the conversation.

23 Q. And then there's a noticeable pause before he answers,  
24 correct?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Do you recall whether or not, in any other parts of the  
2 conversation that you and Special Agent Rhule had with  
3 Danchenko of June 15, 2017, whether or not there are similar  
4 kind of long pauses?

5 A. Is that -- I think that's the one toward the end of the  
6 meeting where I think we noted that it was a bit of hesitation  
7 or odd behavior.

8 Q. Now, on June 15th of 2017 -- and I'd ask you to go to the  
9 next page of the transcript, Government's Exhibit 171T -- do  
10 you recall Mr. Danchenko's characterization of Mr. Dolan at  
11 that time as being a very nice guy?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you recall, sir, whether or not at any time after that  
14 if Mr. Danchenko's references to Mr. Dolan were different than  
15 that?

16 A. Other than the piece that stood out to me was that he was  
17 a little bit naive with respect to the Russians.

18 Q. Okay. We'll get to it in a little bit, but that's your  
19 current recollection is?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And then you asked him specifically, Okay, so  
22 you've had -- was there any -- but you have never talked to  
23 him about anything that showed up in the dossier, right?

24 And Mr. Danchenko said no.

25 And you said you don't think so.

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1 And Mr. Dolan said, No, we talked about, you know,  
2 related issues, perhaps, but no, no, no, nothing specific.  
3 And then there's a rustling sound.

4 Do you recall that on the tape?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Now, when you were asking Mr. Danchenko about whether he  
7 had spoken with, or talked to, Mr. Dolan about anything that  
8 showed up in the dossier, what was your intent? What was your  
9 understanding of what you were asking?

10 A. To get any and all information about Dolan that we could.

11 Q. All right. And at least based on your interactions with  
12 Mr. Danchenko over a period of time, do you know if -- let me  
13 withdraw that.

14 During the period of time that you were interacting  
15 with Mr. Danchenko, do you recall instances in which he would  
16 make reference to communications of various sorts?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Some of them -- do you have any recollection of him  
19 making reference to speaking on social media?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Or talking about conversations he had with a person or  
22 people?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And then sending you screenshots --

25 A. Correct.

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1 Q. -- of the conversation?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. In those instances, that wouldn't be a verbal talking;  
4 that would be -- but it's conversation, as he understood it,  
5 based on his --

6 A. Yes.

7 MR. SEARS: Objection to what Mr. Danchenko  
8 understood.

9 THE COURT: Sustained.

10 BY MR. DURHAM:

11 Q. Do you recall, sir, whether or not, on occasion,  
12 Mr. Danchenko would send you items referring to conversations  
13 that were text messages?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And in what form would he send those to you?

16 A. It would be electronic. It would be snapshots.

17 Q. All right. I'll get back to that in just a moment, but  
18 just to finish up going through this transcript, if you read a  
19 little bit further, Mr. Danchenko is talking about having met  
20 with Mr. Dolan on January 1st at a particular location in  
21 Washington, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And that location was what?

24 A. It was a park. I think it was --

25 Q. And he had a recollection that -- do you recall whether

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1 his recollection was, as reflected here, as January 1st?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. At 12:19?

4 A. Correct, at Tuckahoe Park.

5 Q. And you remarked on that as being interested --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- he had that specific recollection, correct?

8 A. Yeah. It was --

9 Q. And then he showed you a picture that he had taken?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And that was a picture of Mr. Dolan?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And did -- that picture, did you eventually get a copy of  
14 that picture to include in your files and whatnot, if you  
15 recall?

16 A. I don't recall that we did.

17 Q. Was it of any interest or note to you that Mr. Danchenko  
18 was meeting with Mr. Dolan in a park on New Year's Day and  
19 then memorializing it in a photograph?

20 A. I thought it was interesting and of note.

21 Q. Okay. And with regard to the leak of the BuzzFeed  
22 information, he did not disclose that to you, the call from  
23 Dolan?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Now, if you turn another couple of pages into the

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1 transcript, do you remember that there's a portion where you  
2 had asked, You didn't do any work for them? That's where  
3 Galkina worked, right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. As to that portion, do you recall whether or not  
6 Mr. Danchenko ever disclosed to you who was it that introduced  
7 Galkina to Dolan?

8 A. I don't think that was here. It may have been -- I was  
9 under the impression that Mr. Danchenko had introduced Galkina  
10 to Dolan.

11 Q. To Dolan. Did he describe to you or discuss with you the  
12 circumstances, if you recall?

13 A. I don't recall.

14 Q. At that time, do you recall whether or not Galkina was  
15 somebody who he had identified -- he, Mr. Danchenko, had  
16 identified as the source of information?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Would it have been of interest to you to know about  
19 Mr. Dolan and Ms. Galkina and Mr. Danchenko, that those three  
20 persons on June 15th of 2017?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And then there's a portion two pages later where  
23 Mr. Danchenko makes reference and said, "Trump isn't," and  
24 then it says, "isn't normal, see." Do you recall today what  
25 that was about?

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1 A. I don't recall exactly what it was.

2 Q. Do you know whether or not Mr. -- well, withdrawn.

3 Toward the very end of the conversations -- so  
4 basically, the last page of the transcript -- you had asked --  
5 you had said, "Now, would you" -- "Did he ever come up at all  
6 with Chris?" In context, who is Chris?

7 A. Chris Steele.

8 Q. And Mr. Danchenko then said "Chuck Dolan?"

9 And you said, "Would Chris know him?"

10 And Mr. Danchenko's response was, "I think he  
11 would."

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Did Mr. Danchenko ever share with you that he was working  
14 toward trying to broker some kind of working relationship  
15 between Dolan -- Mr. Dolan and Mr. Steele?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Would it have been interest -- of interest to you that  
18 Mr. Dolan was somebody that Mr. Danchenko was trying to work  
19 towards brokering a deal?

20 A. That would be.

21 Q. Did you know at the time whether Mr. Dolan had any  
22 particular political affiliations?

23 A. I didn't at the time, but I later learned that he was, I  
24 think, a democratic lobbyist.

25 Q. Why would it have been of interest or value to the FBI to

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1 know at the time that Mr. Danchenko had worked toward a  
2 relationship, this is a relationship between Christopher  
3 Steele and Chuck Dolan?

4 A. Because it would, again, go back to the idea of who were  
5 the sources for the dossier and that would be relevant to  
6 figuring that out and answering those questions.

7 Q. Okay. With respect to your review of the information  
8 from Mr. Dolan, from those emails, and then your review of  
9 report, which the jury has seen as 2016/105, that paragraph  
10 that you read?

11 A. Uh-huh.

12 Q. Was that information in Mr. Dolan's email that -- did  
13 that appear to be pretty specific in terms of there's  
14 somebody -- it was coming from an insider?

15 A. It appeared to be.

16 Q. Would that have been of interest or value to you to be  
17 able to plumb that?

18 A. Yes, it would have been something that I would have  
19 passed over to special counsel -- or Mueller's investigative  
20 team.

21 Q. Do you recall, sir, whether or not at some point in time  
22 you learned that Mr. Dolan had some relationship with Dmitry  
23 Peskov?

24 A. Yeah, I think, Igor had explained that Chuck Dolan was --  
25 had an association with Mr. Peskov.

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1 Q. Would it have been of interest to you, then, whether or  
2 not Mr. Danchenko's getting information either by or through  
3 Mr. Dolan?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Now, I had asked you questions about your understanding  
6 of soliciting information from Mr. Danchenko. You asked him  
7 if he had talked to Dolan about what was in the dossier, you  
8 recall that?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And you said that you were talking about more  
11 comprehensive way, you know, what he knew about that  
12 conversations or whatnot. I want to ask you to take a look,  
13 if you would, at Government's Exhibit 119.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. This is for identification.

16 A. Okay.

17 Q. And do you have that in front of you?

18 A. I do.

19 Q. Do you recognize, first, you know, what 119 is?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And what is 119?

22 A. It's one of my composed reports.

23 Q. With respect to Government's Exhibit 119 for  
24 identification, what's the date of that?

25 A. Date of contact is May 17th, 2017.

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1 Q. And is there any information in that report relating to  
2 Mr. Danchenko and his referencing conversations and  
3 screenshots?

4 A. It was bullet point 4 where he's talking about Galkina.  
5 (As read): "Her case details in Greek, claims that she can't  
6 travel until September, but I made a good pitch. Will show  
7 our conversation here of the screenshots in the meantime."

8 Q. So if -- just for the record, would you read that again a  
9 little bit more slowly so the court reporter can get it down  
10 and keep your voice up, if you would.

11 A. Yeah, sure. It's bullet point 4. It says (As read):  
12 "Her case details in Greek, claims that she can't travel until  
13 September, but I made a good pitch. Will show our  
14 conversation here, our other screens in the meantime."

15 Q. And then as you look through your report, do you see  
16 anything related to that on page 3 of the report?

17 A. Yes, there are screenshots of their conversation.

18 Q. And the screenshots appear on, as you look at the  
19 exhibit, the attachment to your -- what is it? It's a  
20 two-page report, correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. With attachments?

23 A. Uh-huh.

24 Q. And they include screenshots of conversation between  
25 Galkina, Ms. Galkina and Mr. Danchenko?

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1 A. Yes, yes.

2 MR. DURHAM: We move 119 as a full exhibit, Your  
3 Honor.

4 THE COURT: Any objection?

5 MR. SEARS: No objection.

6 THE COURT: Without objection, 119 is admitted.  
7 (Government's Exhibit No. 119 was admitted into evidence.)

8 BY MR. DURHAM:

9 Q. Now, looking at Government's Exhibit 119 now, a full  
10 exhibit, you made reference to bullet point 4, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And that's toward the bottom of the page?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And it reads OAG. What's that acronym stand for?

15 A. It would be for -- it's -- OAG is the initials for Olga  
16 Galkina.

17 Q. And it says (As read): "Her case detail is in Greek,  
18 claims she can't travel until September, but make a good  
19 pitch, will show our conversation, here are other screens in  
20 the meantime." Correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And then if you look to the attachment, it repeats that?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And then as part of the attachment, in addition, there  
25 are screenshots of the conversation, correct?

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1 A. Correct.

2 Q. I want to ask you, if you would, take a look at  
3 Government's Exhibit 120. See if you recognize 120?

4 A. I do.

5 Q. And how do you recognize 120?

6 A. It is another one of my written reports.

7 Q. And with respect to Government's 120, do you recall how  
8 you first saw that? And it's your report, correct?

9 A. Yes, it's my report.

10 Q. Do you recognize 120?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. And as to Government Exhibit 120, I want to ask you to  
13 turn to the very last page of 120 and tell us whether or not  
14 you recognize the unredacted part of Government's Exhibit 120.

15 A. It is part of his report. He's actually typing, speaking  
16 on social media. He keeps asking -- when I'm visiting on good  
17 terms, asking him about Romeo and Juliet setting.

18 Q. Okay. So that's not your -- you didn't type that, you  
19 didn't write that in?

20 A. No, it's -- those are his words.

21 Q. It came from who?

22 A. Mr. Danchenko.

23 Q. And with respect to that Exhibit 120, that's your work  
24 product?

25 A. Yes.

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1 MR. DURHAM: We would move 120 as a full exhibit,  
2 Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Any objection?

4 MR. SEARS: No objection.

5 THE COURT: 120 is in.

6 (Government's Exhibit No. 120 was admitted into evidence.)

7 BY MR. DURHAM:

8 Q. Now, looking at Government's Exhibit 120, there's  
9 information that's unredacted, that is it's not redacted, on  
10 the first page, right?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And would you just read that into the record so the jury  
13 can see it, but for the written record?

14 A. It says (As read): "At this point in the development  
15 of -- source understands that his priority is to obtain any  
16 and all information that would indicate collusion between the  
17 Trump campaign, the Trump administration and the Russian  
18 government and/or any of its representatives. ID continues to  
19 iterate that at no time did he communicate that he or any of  
20 his contacts were in possession of such material and that all  
21 of his information was obtained through conversations with  
22 what ID classifies as his social network of friends and  
23 professional colleagues."

24 Q. And then if you go to the very last page of Government's  
25 Exhibit 120, is it -- the unredacted portions what you are

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1 referring to in identifying the document?

2 A. Yep.

3 Q. And what does it say?

4 A. (As read): "Speaking on social media, he keeps asking me  
5 when I am visiting. On good terms, asking him about Romeo and  
6 Juliet setting."

7 Q. So he's speaking on social media?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Okay.

10 MR. DURHAM: Can I have one moment, Your Honor?

11 (Counsel confers.)

12 BY MR. DURHAM:

13 Q. So the words "speaking on social media," those aren't  
14 yours?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Okay. Now, with respect to Mr. Dolan, and we're getting  
17 to the end -- getting to the end here.

18 With respect to Mr. Dolan, do you recall you had  
19 indicated that Mr. Danchenko had made reference to the fact  
20 that Dolan had a relationship with Dmitry Peskov?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Now, with respect to Mr. Peskov, do you recall who he was  
23 and is?

24 A. He would be the press secretary for Vladimir Putin.

25 Q. Now, with respect to Mr. Peskov, do you know whether or



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1 not Mr. Peskov is somebody who's -- the Bureau believed to  
2 have been involved in Russian disinformation?

3 A. I'm not an -- I don't --

4 Q. Okay. If you don't know, you don't know.

5 A. Yeah, I don't know.

6 Q. Okay. But that was a name, the Peskov name is a name  
7 that's familiar to you?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Now, I want to move to Government's Exhibit 172T.

10 MR. DURHAM: Your Honor, I'd say that we probably  
11 have about 10 minutes and then --

12 THE COURT: All right.

13 MR. DURHAM: Just to alert the Court.

14 BY MR. DURHAM:

15 Q. If you'd take a look at Government's Exhibit 172T and the  
16 corresponding CD, 172.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. As to 172, do you recognize that?

19 A. I do.

20 Q. How do you recognize it?

21 A. It has my initials.

22 Q. And what, if anything, did you do in connection with  
23 Government's Exhibit 172 and then the transcript 172T?

24 A. I reviewed them and the transcript is consistent with  
25 what's on the recording.

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1 MR. DURHAM: We offer 172 as a full exhibit, Your  
2 Honor, and 172T as an aid for the jury.

3 THE COURT: Any objection?

4 MR. SEARS: No objection.

5 THE COURT: Without objection, 172 and 172T are  
6 admitted.

7 (Government's Exhibit Nos. 172, 172T were admitted into  
8 evidence.)

9 (Exhibit published.)

10 BY MR. DURHAM:

11 Q. Do you recognize this transcript?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you reviewed it and compared against the actual  
14 recording Government's Exhibit 172, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 MR. DURHAM: Your Honor, we'd ask permission to play  
17 Government's Exhibit 172.

18 THE COURT: Yes.

19 (Audio played.)

20 BY MR. DURHAM:

21 Q. With respect to what the jurors have just heard, does  
22 that accurately reflect the state of matters on June 15, 2017,  
23 when you interviewed Mr. Danchenko?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And when you're asking about Mr. Dolan?

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1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And you're interested in pretty much everything?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And him getting everything that he can as a paid  
5 informant?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Did he get anything for you on Chuck Dolan that you're --  
8 that you recall?

9 A. No.

10 MR. DURHAM: I want to ask that the jury bring up --  
11 the -- that Ms. Arsenault bring up Government's Exhibit 605,  
12 please.

13 (Counsel confers.)

14 MR. DURHAM: Your Honor, ask permission to have 605  
15 handed to the witness by a court security officer.

16 THE COURT: All right. Is there going to be any  
17 objection to 605?

18 MR. SEARS: I haven't seen it yet, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 MR. SEARS: No objection.

21 THE COURT: Okay. 605 and 605T, do you want that in  
22 as well?

23 MR. DURHAM: Yes, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: All right. 605 and 605T are in.

25 (Government's Exhibit Nos. 605 and 605T were admitted into

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1 evidence.)

2 MR. DURHAM: We'd ask that Government's Exhibit 605  
3 be brought up first or together.

4 BY MR. DURHAM:

5 Q. Looking at 605 on the left-hand side of your monitor, and  
6 then 605T on the right side of your monitor, do you recall  
7 whether or not you have ever seen this photograph before?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Assuming that this came from Facebook business record on  
10 Mr. Danchenko's account, would this have been something that  
11 would have been of interest or value to the FBI when you were  
12 asking him questions on June 15th of 2017?

13 A. It would.

14 Q. Or thereafter?

15 A. Or thereafter.

16 Q. But to your knowledge and recollection, this was never  
17 produced to you?

18 A. Not to me, no.

19 Q. The date of this particular email, Facebook, at the  
20 bottom appears to be June 14th of 2016, correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Do you recall whether Mr. Danchenko provided you with any  
23 detailed information about being in this location on June 14th  
24 of 2016 with Mr. Dolan?

25 A. No.

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1 Q. And do you recall, sir, if you look at the back of  
2 Government's Exhibit 605T --

3 MR. DURHAM: If we can get that on the monitor and  
4 blow that up.

5 BY MR. DURHAM:

6 Q. This Facebook exchange begins with both Ms. Galkina,  
7 correct?

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. Galkina. And she indicates that she had tried to arrange  
10 a good time for Mr. Dolan?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And then Mr. Danchenko responds, correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 MR. DURHAM: And this is an associated Facebook  
15 message with the photograph marked Government's Exhibit 605T  
16 and 605.

17 BY MR. DURHAM:

18 Q. Now, you've told the jurors that you have worked in the  
19 Washington Field Office, working in Washington matters for  
20 many years, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you recall -- or do you know, looking at Government's  
23 Exhibit 605, where that is?

24 A. Yes, it's near the Kremlin.

25 Q. Okay. That was not provided to you, though, correct?

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1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Now, I want to turn your attention -- there's two more  
3 matters and we're done on direct.

4 October 23rd of 2017, I want to ask you whether or  
5 not you have a recollection of meeting on a report that has  
6 the contact on that date, I think the contact date is actually  
7 September 22nd. Do you remember your report?

8 A. I do remember the report.

9 Q. And what can you tell the jurors about the mix-up of the  
10 dates, if you know?

11 A. I don't recall. There was issues I remember during that  
12 time with our computer systems getting -- the reports were  
13 going in and disappearing, so we would have to reissue them.  
14 So it could be the discrepancy on the dates.

15 Q. Well, let me ask you -- let me ask you this: In the  
16 recording that Mr. Danchenko had with you, you recorded it  
17 with Mr. Danchenko, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Starting on March 16th of 2017, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And you went forward then on June 15th on 2017, you first  
22 asked him, Mr. Danchenko, about Mr. Dolan, correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And in that recording the jury listened to this  
25 afternoon, and I asked you specifically about it, do you

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1 remember how he characterized Mr. Dolan?

2 A. As a friend.

3 Q. And did he say he's a nice guy?

4 A. He's a nice guy.

5 Q. Do you recall, sir, whether or not at any point in time  
6 he provided other information about Mr. Dolan?

7 A. Yeah. In that meeting, one of the underlying themes in  
8 sort of our -- in all of our debriefs, especially during the  
9 first year, was being concerned about physical safety of any  
10 source.

11 And I had asked on a number of occasions, was he  
12 aware of anyone that might be aware of his affiliation with  
13 Chris Steele and his involvement in the dossier.

14 Could these people be the ones that would expose him  
15 publicly as being the primary sub-source.

16 And I believe it was in that -- in that meeting, he  
17 gave up Chuck Dolan's name.

18 Q. Now, with respect to Mr. Dolan, on September 22nd of  
19 2017, what, if anything, did Mr. Danchenko say about  
20 Mr. Dolan?

21 A. He said he had dubious connections.

22 Q. And not just the dubious connections, did he indicate  
23 where he had dubious connections?

24 A. In Moscow or Russia.

25 Q. Do you recall, sir, whether or not in the course of the

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1 investigation that was being conducted in that time, in  
2 September of 2017, if just a few days before September 22nd,  
3 2017, any of the investigators had occasion to go meet with  
4 somebody?

5 A. I believe that was at the time that the Mueller  
6 investigative team went and interviewed -- or had another  
7 interview with Mr. Steele.

8 Q. Okay. Do you remember how close in proximity to  
9 September 22nd that was?

10 A. It was like the first -- like a week or so before, I  
11 think.

12 Q. Okay. So some people going over -- you -- were you in  
13 that group?

14 A. No.

15 Q. You just knew that -- did you know that they were going  
16 over?

17 A. I knew that -- well, I didn't know at the time. I knew  
18 later when they came back and told me that there was some  
19 discrepancy --

20 Q. Okay. You can't say what they told you.

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. But you had a conversation with them?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And then as a result of that, you met to talk to  
25 Mr. Danchenko on September 22nd about a number of matters,

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1 right?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And Dolan's name came up again?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And did he describe Mr. Dolan on September 22nd as "a  
6 nice guy"?

7 A. Yes -- or not -- on September the 22nd, it was -- he  
8 had -- I think that was when he said dubious connections.

9 Q. He went from nice guy to, oh, he's got dubious  
10 connections in Russia?

11 A. Yeah.

12 Q. Do you recall, did you probe with him why the change, why  
13 you went -- Dolan went from being a nice guy to now, oh, he's  
14 got dubious connections to the Kremlin?

15 A. I had attributed it to the fact that I was routinely  
16 asking him, I need to be aware of the people around you that  
17 could be a security risk. And I can understand why he would  
18 bring up Dolan, having the connections he did. I had concerns  
19 about Dolan myself.

20 Q. Okay. Now, finally, I want to turn your attention to  
21 Government's Exhibit 173 and 173T, and ask you to take a look  
22 at that in your book and see if you find those items in there?

23 A. I did.

24 Q. Okay. As the Government's Exhibit 173, do you recognize  
25 it?

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1 A. I do.

2 Q. How do you recognize it?

3 A. Has my initials.

4 Q. Did you compare 173 against the transcript premarked as  
5 173T?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. What can you tell the jurors about how the transcript  
8 compares to the audio recording?

9 A. The transcripts are consistent with the audio recording.

10 MR. DURHAM: We'd ask that 173 be admitted as a full  
11 exhibit and 173T for identification.

12 THE COURT: Any objection?

13 MR. DURHAM: And as an aid to the jury.

14 THE COURT: Any objection?

15 MR. SEARS: No.

16 THE COURT: 173 and 173T are admitted.

17 (Government's Exhibit Nos. 173, 173T were admitted into  
18 evidence.)

19 MR. DURHAM: May we play it, Your Honor?

20 THE COURT: Yes.

21 (Audio played.)

22 BY MR. DURHAM:

23 Q. Do you recognize that portion of the conversation?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. To your knowledge, you're -- with respect to what you

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1 were saying there, what is it that you're telling

2 Mr. Danchenko?

3 A. That anything that's stated right now in the dossier, at  
4 that point in time, was nowhere near the level of evidentiary  
5 material.

6 Q. And who is it that is saying in there (As read): "Right,  
7 because it's not others, no legally -- there's no attorney  
8 that's ever going to put that on as evidence anyway."?

9 A. Yeah, that was me.

10 Q. But do you know, sir, now, whether or not the  
11 uncorroborated information concerning a well coordinated  
12 conspiracy of cooperation portion out of 95, was that used in  
13 a legal document?

14 A. I understand that it -- I think it was used or cited in a  
15 FISA application.

16 Q. And that was against an American citizen, correct?

17 A. I believe that was -- yes.

18 Q. And it was completely unvetted?

19 A. Yes.

20 MR. DURHAM: Nothing further, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Sears.

22 CROSS-EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. SEARS:

24 Q. Mr. Helson, just to pick up where Mr. Durham left off, in  
25 fact, Mr. Danchenko told you from day one that none of his

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1 reporting to Mr. Steele was likely to be corroborated,  
2 correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Because all the information he gathered was from third  
5 parties who were reporting conversations they had with other  
6 people, correct?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And that's exactly how you provided that information to  
9 Mr. Steele, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And he was actually shocked when he read the dossier for  
12 the first time in January of 2017, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 MR. DURHAM: Objection, Your Honor, to this witness  
15 testifying about Mr. Danchenko's statement. We can inquire  
16 to --

17 THE COURT: That's what he asked.

18 BY MR. SEARS:

19 Q. Well, he told you that he was shocked how Mr. Steele had  
20 represented the information he provided Mr. Steele in the  
21 dossier, correct?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. Because Mr. Steele represented as fact when it was rumor  
24 and speculation?

25 A. Correct.

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1 Q. He never claimed that he was going to be able to  
2 corroborate anything that was in the dossier, correct?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And he said it was unlikely you were going to be able to  
5 corroborate anything that was in the dossier, correct?

6 A. He basically said that the Bureau or the U.S. Government  
7 is going to have to figure that out.

8 Q. It's your job to figure it out; all I did was collect  
9 informing and hand it over as raw intelligence?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And he never vouched for the accuracy of any of it?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And you were not involved in the Crossfire Hurricane  
14 investigation, at least not intentionally, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. You were actually asked to join the team, and you were  
17 smart enough to say, "No thanks," correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. But because the Crossfire Hurricane team had developed  
20 Mr. Danchenko, they needed someone to handle him as a  
21 potential source of information for our government going  
22 forward?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And you had a specialty or an expertise in handling  
25 confidential human sources especially as it related to Russian

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1 activity?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. So you were kind of a natural choice, unfortunately for  
4 you, to take on that job, correct?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. Okay. And you agreed to take that job on, correct?

7 A. I did.

8 Q. And during the course of your interaction with  
9 Mr. Danchenko, you would communicate with him in person, some  
10 of the audio we've heard today was in person?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You would also communicate with him over encrypted apps.  
13 And I would just want to talk to you for a second about these  
14 apps. If you're -- I don't know if you're -- I'm sorry? Did  
15 you say yes?

16 A. Yes, I did.

17 Q. I thought you said yes. You might have to speak up a  
18 little louder.

19 A. Sorry. Yes.

20 Q. I don't know if you're allowed to say what kind of apps  
21 you used or not with Mr. Danchenko, so I'm not going to ask  
22 you that question, but I'm going to ask you in your work or in  
23 your personal experience, have you used messaging apps?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Like WhatsApp or Viber or Wickr, those types of

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1 applications?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And is it your understanding in order to contact somebody  
4 on one of those applications, you just need their phone  
5 number?

6 A. That is correct.

7 Q. Thank you.

8 Now, my understanding is that you were not involved  
9 in the interviews of Mr. Danchenko in January of 2017?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. But by the time you met Mr. Danchenko for the first time  
12 in March of that year, you had some general sense of what he  
13 had said during that interview, correct?

14 A. As it related to the sources, yeah. They were beginning  
15 to let me see some of the stuff.

16 Q. Okay. So you knew bits or pieces --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- but not the full picture?

19 A. Not the full picture.

20 Q. And -- actually, let me just show you -- go ahead and  
21 show you what's been marked as Defense Exhibit 100. If the  
22 court security officer can please show that to you. Take your  
23 time. Once you've had a chance to review it, let me know.

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. Do you recognize that?

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1 A. I do.

2 Q. What is that document?

3 A. It is a source report.

4 Q. Is that the source opening document that essentially  
5 opened up Mr. Danchenko as a confidential human source?

6 A. It would be, or a portion of it.

7 Q. Did you generate that report?

8 A. I did.

9 Q. Does it look to be a true and accurate copy of the report  
10 you would have generated back in March of 2017 to officially  
11 document your opening of Mr. Danchenko as a confidential human  
12 source?

13 A. Yes.

14 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, I would move to admit this  
15 as Exhibit 100.

16 THE COURT: Any objection?

17 MR. DURHAM: No objection, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Without objection, Defense Exhibit 100  
19 is admitted.

20 (Defendant's Exhibit No. 100, was admitted into evidence.)

21 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, may I publish it to the  
22 jury?

23 THE COURT: Yes.

24 (Exhibit published.)

25 BY MR. SEARS:



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1 Q. So as you were saying, Agent Helson, this is the document  
2 that you used to basically make a record of the fact that  
3 Mr. Danchenko was being opened as a source?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. And in this document, you wrote what the motivations were  
6 for Mr. Danchenko to become a source?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And among those motivations, you listed patriotism to the  
9 United States?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Mr. Danchenko is a Russian national?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. That was one of his expressed reasons for wanting to  
14 become a confidential human source?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Mr. Danchenko was under no obligation to become a  
17 confidential human source for our country, correct?

18 A. That is correct.

19 Q. He volunteered to do that?

20 A. Absolutely.

21 Q. In exchange for -- he did get compensation, correct?

22 A. Yes, he did.

23 Q. He was under no obligation to continue to meet with you;  
24 he could have terminated that relationship at any time,

25 correct?

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1 A. That is correct.

2 Q. He could have declined to answer any one of your  
3 questions at any time had he wanted to, correct?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. He never did?

6 A. Nope.

7 Q. And he had concern about his own personal safety  
8 throughout his cooperation with you, correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you had concerns about his safety throughout his  
11 cooperation, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And you understood why that was?

14 A. I do.

15 Q. Given the nature of the type of cooperation he was  
16 providing, correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Your job as a handler of confidential human sources is  
19 to, one, keep them talking?

20 A. Mm-hmm.

21 Q. Is that fair?

22 A. That's true.

23 Q. And develop a relationship of trust?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And over time, he came to trust you, do you believe?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you came to trust him?

3 A. Yes. Yes.

4 Q. And you also had an obligation, you personally, had an  
5 obligation to keep him safe?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. And you took that obligation seriously the entire time  
8 that you were handling him as a confidential human source,  
9 correct?

10 A. I did.

11 Q. Now, during the course of your relationship with  
12 Mr. Danchenko -- which lasted approximately four years?

13 A. It was March of 2017 until October of 2020. That last  
14 year, it was not a lot of meets because of the COVID, so it  
15 was three years.

16 Q. There was only one time during your three to four years  
17 of interacting with Mr. Danchenko where he acted, in your  
18 opinion, very odd or very erratically; do you remember that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And that was early on in your relationship with him when  
21 he walked into an in-person meeting?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And he, out of the blue, starting demanding more money  
24 from the FBI, correct?

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. And that was completely out of character from your  
2 previous experiences with him?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And I think you described it as he was kind of almost  
5 jumping up and down in his chair, spinning around, just very  
6 upset and erratic?

7 A. It was obvious.

8 Q. Okay. And he later explained to you that the reason he  
9 had behaved that way that day and the reason he had asked --

10 MR. DURHAM: The government is going to object to  
11 hearsay statements coming in through this witness. They're  
12 not statements of party opponents and, therefore, not  
13 admissible to try to --

14 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, this is going through his  
15 relationship --

16 THE COURT: Yes. Overruled. I'm going to let you  
17 ask what was said during these meetings. Go ahead.

18 MR. SEARS: Thank you, Your Honor.

19 BY MR. SEARS:

20 Q. And he had explained to you that the reason for his  
21 behavior on that day was because before he came to see you,  
22 his wife and his lawyer -- not me, right?

23 A. Correct, not you.

24 Q. Okay. Just wanted to get that out now.

25 -- had basically told him that he should be asking

1 for more money?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And put pressure on him because he was putting himself at  
4 risk?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And he has children?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And they thought he should be more aggressive about  
9 getting more money?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And he apologized for that, right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And your takeaway from that interaction was -- and I  
14 think I'm quoting what you said to the OIG when you testified  
15 before the OIG -- was that you -- your takeaway was that he  
16 was now gold as a cooperator, right?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Because now you know how he would react if he was lying  
19 to you about something serious, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And he never acted like that ever again, correct?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Now, your focus, as Mr. Danchenko's handler, was not on  
24 Crossfire Hurricane, but future efforts by Russia actors in  
25 the United States, correct?

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1 A. Initially, there was stuff about the dossier, but that  
2 dwindled down to the other stuff.

3 Q. Right. And it wasn't because you were interested in  
4 that; it was because you were getting requests --

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. -- for that type of information?

7 And you would get requests to ask certain questions  
8 from the Crossfire Hurricane team, and at your next meeting  
9 with Mr. Danchenko, you would ask those questions?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And you would get the answers to those questions and send  
12 them back to the Crossfire Hurricane team, correct?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. And you would never really hear back about whether his  
15 information was useful?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Or truthful?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. It was a one-way street as far as communication -- as far  
20 as you were concerned?

21 A. That is what I would characterize it as.

22 Q. Okay. And other than following up on a few occasions  
23 about this Sergei Millian contact, the Crossfire Hurricane  
24 team never raised any real concerns with you about the  
25 information he was providing, correct?

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1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And Mr. Danchenko provided you a lot of information about  
3 a lot of different people, correct?

4 A. That is true.

5 Q. People he believed were also involved, potentially, as  
6 sources in the dossier, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you would agree with me that, at times,  
9 Mr. Danchenko, with you, was being asked to kind of speculate  
10 about who might have been a source for a certain section of  
11 the dossier?

12 A. Yes. There were times the stuff that he wouldn't -- he  
13 couldn't recall or attributed from him, so then we would  
14 elaborate and go deeper in and say, Hey, who do you think this  
15 came from?

16 Q. And it's a uncontroverted fact that Mr. Danchenko did not  
17 write the dossier?

18 A. That is true.

19 Q. Christopher Steele wrote the dossier?

20 A. That is true.

21 Q. Mr. Danchenko didn't even know there was a dossier being  
22 created during the summer and fall of 2016, correct?

23 A. That is correct.

24 Q. He didn't know there was a dossier until he saw it when  
25 it got released in BuzzFeed in January of 2017, correct?

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1 A. Correct.

2 Q. That was the first time, as far as you're aware, that he  
3 had ever even seen it before?

4 A. That is -- yeah, as far as I'm aware.

5 Q. And he was being asked by the Crossfire Hurricane team  
6 and then you, on occasion, to interpret something somebody  
7 else had written?

8 A. That is true.

9 Q. Thank you.

10 Now, you're aware -- so I think you were discussing  
11 on direct examination that Mr. Danchenko, on occasion, would  
12 provide you with business cards or other information that he  
13 had acquired over his time being a business analyst and  
14 talking to his contacts, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Did the Crossfire Hurricane team ever ask you to make an  
17 image of his cell phone?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Do you have any reason to believe he would have said no  
20 if you had asked?

21 A. No.

22 Q. He never said no to anything, right?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did the Crossfire Hurricane team ever ask you to get the  
25 log-in information to his email accounts?

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1 A. No.

2 Q. Or his text messages?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Or to see what you could download from his messaging  
5 applications?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. And you, yourself, it wasn't your responsibility  
8 because you weren't part of Crossfire, but you, yourself,  
9 never asked for those things either, correct?

10 A. Technically I wouldn't be allowed to just because I  
11 wouldn't have the legal authority to do so.

12 Q. Okay. And you're aware, I believe -- if you're not, you  
13 can tell me, but you're aware that Mr. Danchenko had told the  
14 Crossfire Hurricane team that he had deleted a lot of his  
15 communications during the time period when he was doing his  
16 reporting for what later turned out to be the dossier,  
17 correct?

18 A. I wasn't aware of that initially, but I've heard that.

19 Q. Okay. And, in fact, Agent Helson, once Mr. Danchenko  
20 became a confidential human source, and for good reason, you  
21 told him that he should scrub his phone, correct?

22 A. Yeah, at the beginning, there were two times that we had  
23 discussed that action was at the beginning to kind of mask and  
24 obfuscate his connection to Steele and any connection to us.

25 And then after the three-day interview became

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1 public, we readdressed that as well as we assumed he would be  
2 most likely targeted from -- by cyber means by the Russians.

3 Q. So to the extent it's possible there were any  
4 communications that were left on his phone from the period  
5 when he was doing the reporting that later ended up being the  
6 dossier, they were likely erased?

7 A. Yeah, depending on how he did it.

8 Q. Okay. So I want to talk to you a little bit about  
9 Charles Dolan. I believe you testified on direct that  
10 Mr. Danchenko appeared, at least initially, a little hesitant  
11 to talk about Mr. Dolan when you first raised his name in June  
12 of 2017, correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And he had no idea that you were going to ask him about  
15 Charles Dolan until you did, right?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Okay. And even though he may have been a little  
18 hesitant, in your impression, he told you an awful lot that  
19 would have been of interest to the FBI about Charles Dolan at  
20 that June 15th interview, correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. He told you he had known of him for ten years because of  
23 his connections to Russia, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. He told you he worked for Ketchum, which was well known

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1 to have done a lot of work, PR work for the Kremlin, correct?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. He told you that Charles Dolan really liked Russia?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. He told you that Charles Dolan could be easily played  
6 because he's naive about Russia, correct?

7 A. That's true.

8 Q. And he told you that Mr. Dolan was on the trip, the YPO  
9 trip to Moscow, in October of 2016, correct?

10 A. That is correct.

11 Q. He also told you that Mr. Dolan had a connection to  
12 Dmitry Peskov, correct?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. Mr. Durham had asked you whether that was a significant  
15 fact that he had a connection to Mr. Peskov who had been  
16 President Putin's secretary, correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Mr. Danchenko told you just that?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Correct?

21 He also told you that Mr. Dolan did work for  
22 Servers.com, correct?

23 A. That is true.

24 Q. And you're aware that not only did he tell the FBI about  
25 Mr. Dolan's work for a company that employed Olga Galkina, but

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1 Mr. Danchenko actually introduced the FBI to Olga Galkina,  
2 didn't he?

3 A. He did.

4 Q. He set up a meeting, arranged for a meeting for the FBI  
5 to travel to Cyprus and interview one of the sub-sources for  
6 the dossier?

7 A. He did.

8 Q. He did that?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That was a big deal for the FBI, right?

11 A. It was.

12 Q. And Mr. Durham had been asking you about there weren't a  
13 lot of people connected to the dossier in the United States  
14 and Olga Galkina was not in the United States?

15 A. That's true.

16 Q. She was in Cyprus?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And through Mr. Danchenko, you had the opportunity -- or  
19 the FBI had the opportunity to interview her, correct?

20 A. Yes, that is true.

21 Q. You also asked Mr. Danchenko during the June 15th  
22 interview, and I -- at any point, you want to see the  
23 transcript or anything, you don't just have to accept my  
24 characterization, okay? But at some point during that  
25 interview, you asked him whether Chris Steele would know Chuck

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1 Dolan. Do you remember that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And his answer to that was, yes, he would know him. And  
4 he explained that he didn't believe they had ever met, but  
5 that Chris Steele would know of Chuck Dolan because of his  
6 trip to Moscow and so on. Is that right?

7 A. That is true.

8 Q. Okay. Following the June 15th, 2017 interview, you  
9 continued to meet with Mr. Danchenko, but you stopped  
10 recording the meetings?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Because at that point, you were kind of up to speed on  
13 the names and the players and more confident in your ability  
14 to take notes of those conversations?

15 A. That, and we were basically not getting any new  
16 information about the dossier. It was what it was.

17 Q. Right. So at this point, you weren't having to report  
18 back to Crossfire Hurricane as frequently?

19 A. Correct. The information that was not related to the  
20 dossier was compartmented to WFO only, was compartmented to  
21 Washington Field Office only. Yeah, sorry, Washington Field  
22 Office. My apologies.

23 Q. But on occasion you might get a one-off request from the  
24 Crossfire team, saying, hey, can you run this down or ask them  
25 about this?

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1 A. Yes, that's true.

2 Q. And, again, even though your perception was that he was a  
3 little hesitant at first to talk about Mr. Dolan, in October  
4 of 2017, Mr. Danchenko raised Mr. Dolan as a concern again,  
5 correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. And his concern was, as Mr. Durham stated  
8 previously, was that he had too many dubious connections to  
9 kind of senior people in Russia, correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And he even gave you the names of some of those people?

12 A. He did.

13 Q. Gave the FBI the names of the people that Mr. Dolan had  
14 connections with, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Now, we covered this a little bit at the beginning, but  
17 you learned, during your relationship with Mr. Danchenko, that  
18 he provided a lot of information that ultimately ended up, in  
19 some form, in the dossier, correct?

20 A. That is true.

21 Q. And you're aware that the FBI, over time, had met with  
22 Mr. Steele on a few occasions about the dossier?

23 A. That is true.

24 Q. But Mr. Steele was not disclosing Mr. -- sorry,  
25 Mr. Danchenko's identity?

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1 A. Correct.

2 Q. But you knew Mr. Danchenko's role because Mr. Danchenko  
3 told you his role?

4 A. That is true.

5 Q. And as we discussed, you knew from your investigation  
6 that Mr. Danchenko had never seen the dossier reports until  
7 they were released by BuzzFeed in January of 2017?

8 A. That is true.

9 Q. Mr. Danchenko didn't even know that those reports were  
10 going to the FBI in 2016?

11 A. That's true.

12 Q. Now, Mr. Durham asked you some questions about a  
13 conversation that came up in November. I think you testified  
14 about pressure that Mr. Steele was putting on Mr. Danchenko to  
15 gather information?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. During that summer and fall, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And Mr. Danchenko acknowledged to you that Mr. Steele  
20 would pressure?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. But he never told you that he made something up just to  
23 satisfy Mr. Steele, correct?

24 A. Right, he just didn't correct.

25 Q. And, in fact, you testified before the OIG that

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1 Mr. Danchenko never struck you as someone who would make  
2 something up just because Steele asked for the information?

3 A. That's true.

4 Q. Now, you were asked some questions about Mr. Danchenko's  
5 conversations in October, November of 2017 with Mr. Steele.  
6 Do you recall that?

7 A. Say that again.

8 Q. So this was the line of questioning where Mr. Danchenko  
9 had a conversation with Mr. Steele and reported back that  
10 Mr. Steele had a misperception of his interaction with Sergei  
11 Millian and he didn't feel the need to correct him?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. All right. Let's give the jury a little more context  
14 about that interaction if we can.

15 So at the time that that conversation between  
16 Mr. Danchenko and Mr. Steele occurred was when Mr. Danchenko  
17 flew to London while he was cooperating with the FBI?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And the FBI basically, even now, had Mr. Danchenko  
20 cooperating against Mr. Steele for the FBI?

21 A. He did.

22 Q. Correct?

23 A. Well, we did.

24 Q. And this was ten months after the FBI had first  
25 interviewed Mr. Danchenko in January of 2017?

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1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. He told you, hey, I'm going to go meet with Steele?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And you guys were, great, let us know what he's saying.

5 And at that time, correct me if I'm wrong, there was concern  
6 in the FBI about a dossier No. 2 being released?

7 A. It was.

8 Q. Okay. And you were having Mr. Danchenko fish information  
9 from Mr. Steele about what Mr. Steele was up to?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you wanted Mr. Danchenko loyal to the FBI as opposed  
12 to Mr. Steele?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And I think you've used the term that you were trying, as  
15 his handler, to drive a wedge between Mr. Danchenko and  
16 Mr. Steele, correct?

17 A. I was.

18 Q. And you knew by the time of that meeting in London  
19 between Mr. Danchenko and Mr. Steele, that Mr. Danchenko had  
20 real concerns about sharing any more information with  
21 Mr. Steele, right?

22 A. That is true.

23 Q. Because he was upset with how Steele had embellished the  
24 information he had provided when he was reporting to him in  
25 2016?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. We covered this, but he was particularly frustrated  
3 because Mr. Steele had reported as fact in the dossier,  
4 information that Mr. Danchenko provided that was rumor and  
5 speculation?

6 A. That is true.

7 Q. And that he had told Mr. Steele it was rumor and  
8 speculation when he gave him the information?

9 A. Yes, he did.

10 Q. He was also concerned, when you went to meet with  
11 Mr. Steele in London in 2017, that Mr. Steele had become  
12 obsessed with trying to prove the dossier true?

13 A. That is true.

14 Q. And that, I think it was your words, that Mr. Steele was  
15 willing to burn everyone around him to make the dossier true?

16 A. That's true.

17 Q. And so he was concerned about sharing any information  
18 with Mr. Steele. What he would do with -- again, I think your  
19 words from the OIG testimony -- Mr. Danchenko was concerned  
20 about what Mr. Steele would do with any bits and pieces of  
21 information he gave him?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And when he came back from London, he told you, Listen,  
24 Millian clearly is under the impression that I met -- Steele  
25 is clearly under the impression that I met with Millian in

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1 person, right?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. But he told you, again, like he had through the entire  
4 time you were interacting with him, that wasn't true, he had  
5 never met with Millian?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And he said, Mr. Steele may have assumed I met with him,  
8 and we were vague at times about how we conveyed information  
9 while I was reporting to him, but it's clear that he thinks I  
10 met with him in person on more than one occasion?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And that's the context under which he told you, I didn't  
13 feel the need to correct him at this point?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And I believe he told you that it was because of, at this  
16 point, after everything Steele has done to him and the mess  
17 that he's created, he doesn't feel the need to correct the  
18 record with him anymore?

19 A. That is true.

20 Q. Turning back to Mr. Dolan, briefly. Mr. Danchenko shared  
21 with you concerns he had about Mr. Dolan and Ms. Galkina's  
22 relationship; is that fair? Do you remember that?

23 A. Yeah. There was a point in time that I think he had  
24 mentioned something about that relationship.

25 Q. And the fact that while he had introduced them, he had

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1 been kind of cut out of the picture, and he doesn't know what  
2 they're talking about or what they're up to?

3 A. Yeah, he implied that, Yes.

4 Q. Now, Mr. Danchenko is charged, in Count 1 of this case,  
5 with lying about whether he had ever talked to Mr. Dolan about  
6 anything specific in the Steele reports. Are you aware of  
7 that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And that's based on a statement he provided to you in  
10 June -- on June 15, 2017?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. And we listened to that audio, and we looked at  
13 the transcript today, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. But because we have an audio and a transcript, we kind of  
16 know exactly what each of you said?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. We don't have to rely on a report that gets generated  
19 later based on someone's memory, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And before you met with Mr. Danchenko on June 15th, the  
22 Crossfire Hurricane team had sent you some questions to ask  
23 him about during that meeting, right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So I want to show you what's been marked as Defense

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1 Exhibit 102.

2 THE COURT: Which exhibit?

3 MR. SEARS: 102, Your Honor.

4 BY MR. SEARS:

5 Q. When you've had a chance to review it, let me know, and  
6 then I'll ask you some questions.

7 A. It looks like interview notes.

8 Q. So if you actually -- if you start on the second page of  
9 that document, do you recognize that, what those are?

10 A. Yeah. Those are -- it would be -- this would be Special  
11 Counsel's stuff --

12 Q. So --

13 A. -- the Mueller team.

14 Q. If you turn back to the first page -- sorry to keep  
15 making you jump back and forth --

16 A. No, you're fine.

17 Q. -- but on the top, it has a date and then your name,  
18 correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And the date is 6/15/17, and it says "DB notes." Is that  
21 debrief notes?

22 A. That is.

23 Q. Okay. And you would take notes during your meetings with  
24 Mr. Danchenko?

25 A. Correct.

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1 Q. It looks like there's two very different types of  
2 handwriting on this document.

3 A. It is.

4 Q. Okay. Which one are you going to claim is yours?

5 A. The top one.

6 Q. Okay. The neater one?

7 A. I'll let you be the judge of that.

8 Q. It'll make it much easier for me. Thank you.

9 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, I would like to move this in  
10 as Defense Exhibit 102, which are notes and questions from the  
11 interview of Mr. Danchenko and --

12 THE COURT: Any objection?

13 MR. DURHAM: I don't think that they're admissible  
14 in this proceeding, so we would object. I mean, the witness  
15 is here to testify; he can testify, but I don't think the  
16 notes themselves, has any consistency.

17 THE COURT: This is a document this witness received  
18 and partially created?

19 MR. SEARS: Yes, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Over objection, Exhibit 102 is admitted.  
21 (Defendant's Exhibit No. 102, was admitted into evidence.)

22 BY MR. SEARS:

23 Q. So, Agent Helson, if you go to the second page of the  
24 document, it has a series of questions typed out, correct?

25 MR. SEARS: If I could publish this to the jury.

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1 THE COURT: Yes.

2 (Exhibit published.)

3 MR. SEARS: And, Charlie, if you could blow up page  
4 2, please.

5 THE COURT: Mr. Sears, I think this might be a good  
6 time for --

7 MR. SEARS: I think so, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: -- our afternoon break.

9 Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to have our  
10 afternoon recess at this time. We'll reconvene around 4:30.  
11 You're excused to the jury room. Do not discuss this case  
12 among yourselves during the recess.

13 (Jury dismissed.)

14 THE COURT: All right. Agent Helson, do not discuss  
15 your testimony during the recess. Court will stand in recess.

16 (Recess, 4:04 p.m. to 4:31 p.m.)

17 THE COURT: Anything before we bring out the jury?

18 MR. SEARS: There is, briefly, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Yes.

20 MR. SEARS: And I think, if we could, come to the  
21 bench.

22 (Side bar.)

23 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, there's a juror in the front  
24 row by the name of Terrence Beck, Juror No. 3.

25 During the break, Mr. Danchenko's wife informed me

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1 that her 15-year old son was in the courtroom, he will no  
2 longer be here today, believed he was the principal at his  
3 high school in Arlington -- Yorktown High School in Arlington  
4 County. Once we received that information, we went and looked  
5 him up. In his questionnaire it appears it's a  
6 misidentification. That juror indicated on his questionnaire  
7 he works for the MITRE company in software development. We've  
8 made the special counsel aware of that. I thought it was  
9 appropriate to put that on the record. It doesn't appear to  
10 be an issue.

11 THE COURT: So there's nothing to be done. Okay.

12 (Open court.)

13 THE COURT: All right. Bring out the jury.

14 (Jury present.)

15 THE COURT: Please be seated. Agent Helson, you  
16 remain under oath.

17 Mr. Sears.

18 BY MR. SEARS:

19 Q. Hello again, Agent Helson.

20 A. Hello.

21 Q. I think we left off, we had just published to the jury  
22 Defense Exhibit 102 --

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. -- which related to some questions that you were to ask  
25 Mr. Danchenko during your June 15th, 2017, meeting with him?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And if you review those questions that are on the screen  
3 before you right now, that list of questions doesn't include  
4 you asking whether Mr. Danchenko had spoken to Mr. Dolan about  
5 anything in the dossier, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. You did ask him about that --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- obviously, during that meeting, but that was a  
10 question you asked on your own; it wasn't a request of  
11 Crossfire Hurricane?

12 A. This was the last two. They didn't put it on there.

13 Q. Okay. And --

14 MR. SEARS: We can take that down.

15 BY MR. SEARS:

16 Q. And you would agree with me, Agent Helson -- and like I  
17 said, if you want to see the transcript on the screen or  
18 listen to it, just tell me -- but you would agree with me,  
19 wouldn't you, that you specifically asked Mr. Danchenko  
20 whether he had talked to Mr. Dolan about anything in the  
21 report, right?

22 A. That is what I asked, yes.

23 Q. You didn't use, in your question, a word like  
24 "communicate"?

25 A. No, I didn't.

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1 Q. And you didn't use the word, you know, "correspond"?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. You just asked whether he had talked to him?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Is that fair?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And I understand, in your mind, you know, when you were  
8 asking that question, you may have meant to include all forms  
9 of communication --

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. -- but you never clarified that with Mr. Danchenko, did  
12 you?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay. You didn't tell him, when you were asking, like,  
15 him that question what you meant or what you -- how you wanted  
16 him to interpret that question?

17 A. No. It was just an open-ended question.

18 Q. Okay. And you didn't define what the term "talked" meant  
19 to you --

20 A. No.

21 Q. -- at that time?

22 A. No, I did not.

23 Q. And you never followed up with him during that interview  
24 about whether he had communicated with Mr. Dolan in any other  
25 form of communication?

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1 A. No.

2 Q. And you would agree that when Mr. Danchenko responded to  
3 your question, he used the word "talked" in his answer as  
4 well?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. He said, "We talked about related issues, but nothing  
7 specific," right? Do you remember that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And you could have asked him what he meant by "related  
10 issues," fair?

11 A. Fair.

12 Q. And you just didn't?

13 A. No.

14 Q. At that moment.

15 And you could have asked what he meant by "related"  
16 or "specific," correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Okay. And the only way you would know or we would know  
19 what he meant by that, at that time, would have been if you  
20 had asked him those questions?

21 A. Questions, yes.

22 Q. And you would agree with me -- or would you agree with me  
23 that if Mr. Danchenko had, in fact, never talked or spoken to  
24 Mr. Dolan about anything that ended up in the dossier, then  
25 his answer to you would have been literally true, correct?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And the next series of questions you asked him was, how  
3 long had it been since he had last spoken to Mr. Dolan,  
4 correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And he responded, again, using the same words you had  
7 used in your question, which was: Since I talked, since I  
8 spoke to Chuck last. Do you remember that?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And he mentioned the Moscow trip in October of 2016 as  
11 the -- initially, as the last time he had spoken to him?

12 A. Yes, that's true.

13 Q. And then he went on to say that he had seen him on  
14 January 1st at that park in Arlington.

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. And you took notes of your interview on June 15th,  
17 correct?

18 A. I did.

19 MR. SEARS: And, Charlie, if we could put up 102  
20 again, please.

21 BY MR. SEARS:

22 Q. And while we're pulling that up, Agent Helson, I'm  
23 assuming you do the best you can to take notes while you're  
24 asking questions; is that fair?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Okay. And you try and catch and write down the most  
2 important things from that conversation?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And I think you testified that the notes at the top of  
5 this page are yours?

6 A. Correct.

7 MR. SEARS: And if we could blow those up, Mr. Tent,  
8 please.

9 BY MR. SEARS:

10 Q. And take your time to review them, but nowhere in your  
11 handwritten notes during that interview did you write down  
12 that he had told you that he had never talked to Mr. Dolan  
13 about anything in the dossier; is that fair?

14 A. That's fair.

15 MR. SEARS: Thank you, Mr. Tent.

16 BY MR. SEARS:

17 Q. And in addition to your notes that you took during the  
18 interview, you also wrote up a report of the interview?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And I'm assuming that's one of the worst parts of  
21 handling a CHS is all the reports you have to generate all the  
22 time?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. The paperwork?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And again, you want your, you know, reports to reflect  
2 the most important facts?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. That were learned during that interview?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. So I'd like to show you what's been marked as  
7 Defendant's Exhibit 103.

8 I think you probably know where I'm going with this,  
9 but I'm going to ask you if you see in your report that you  
10 generated from that interview, whether you wrote in there  
11 anywhere about the fact that Mr. Danchenko told you that he  
12 had not talked to Mr. Dolan about anything in the dossier.

13 A. Correct, I didn't.

14 Q. You did not?

15 A. No.

16 Q. You would agree --

17 MR. SEARS: I'm not offering that as an exhibit,  
18 Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 BY MR. SEARS:

21 Q. You would agree that there was a lot of information that  
22 was contained in the dossier reports?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. About a lot of different topics?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And a lot of different people?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And it would be a lot for any person to remember  
4 everything that had been in those reports; is that fair?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. You don't remember everything that was in those reports,  
7 do you?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Okay. And you were asking him about Mr. Dolan and his  
10 talking to Mr. Dolan, and you were asking him those questions  
11 in June 2017, right?

12 A. Correct, yes.

13 Q. Almost one year after the email exchange that Mr. Durham  
14 showed you where Mr. Dolan had shared information about Paul  
15 Manafort's resignation from the campaign?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Now, you were never asked by the Mueller team or the  
18 Crossfire Hurricane team to question Mr. Danchenko about that  
19 specific paragraph regarding Paul Manafort; is that correct?

20 A. Yeah, I was never.

21 Q. In fact, you were never asked to ask Mr. Danchenko about  
22 anything in Report 105; is that right?

23 A. Not that I recall.

24 Q. Okay. The special counsel, Crossfire, nobody ever  
25 focused your attention on the paragraph about Paul Manafort

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1 leaving the campaign?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Are you aware of the fact that Mr. Auten never asked  
4 Mr. Danchenko about that report during his three-day interview  
5 in January?

6 A. Huh-uh. No, I'm not aware of that.

7 Q. I think you mentioned on direct examination that  
8 Mr. Danchenko, at times, would have documents with him when he  
9 would meet with you?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And I think you indicated that you recall that, at some  
12 point, he may have had the dossier or some portions of the  
13 dossier?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Can you say, as you sit here today, whether Mr. Danchenko  
16 ever had Report 105 with him when he met with you?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Can you say, as you sit here today, whether Mr. Danchenko  
19 had ever even seen Report 105?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Agent Helson, are you aware, from your own personal  
22 knowledge, that the information about Paul Manafort leaving  
23 the Trump campaign in the summer of 2016 was pretty widely  
24 covered in the news?

25 A. I didn't know. I would assume it would have been.

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1 Q. Okay. I take it you're not a big political guy?

2 A. I try to stay away from that.

3 Q. Understood. So I want to -- I want to talk to you  
4 briefly about two exhibits that Mr. Durham showed you real  
5 quick.

6 A. Okay.

7 MR. SEARS: If we could pull up Government  
8 Exhibit 120, please.

9 This has already been admitted, Your Honor. If we  
10 could publish it.

11 (Exhibit published.)

12 MR. SEARS: And if you could highlight, Mr. Tent,  
13 the bottom part where it's not redacted.

14 THE COURT: Is this Government Exhibit 120?

15 MR. SEARS: It is. It is, Your Honor. Sorry,  
16 Government Exhibit 120.

17 THE CSO: It fell on the floor.

18 MR. SEARS: Got it.

19 THE COURT: I don't have that admitted, frankly.  
20 Has it been admitted?

21 THE COURTROOM CLERK: Yes, Judge.

22 THE COURT: It has been? All right. Thank you.

23 BY MR. SEARS:

24 Q. I want to focus your attention first, if I could, to the  
25 last -- well, to this whole paragraph, and I'm going to read

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1 it to you (As read): "At this point in the development of  
2 Mr. Danchenko, a source understands that his priority is to  
3 obtain any and all information that would indicate collusion  
4 between the Trump campaign, the Trump administration, and the  
5 Russian government and/or any of its representatives."

6 Do you see that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And this is from a report you generated after meeting  
9 with him in July of 2017?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And the next sentence is redacted, and the sentence after  
12 that says (As read): "ID," which refers to Mr. Danchenko,  
13 "continues to iterate that at no time did he communicate that  
14 he nor any of his contacts were in possession of such  
15 material." Right?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And that's referring to collusion material between the  
18 Trump campaign and Russia?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And that all of the information was obtained through  
21 conversations with what he classifies as his social network of  
22 friends and professional colleagues?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And that's consistent with what he told you throughout  
25 your meetings with him?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And if we can turn to the third -- sorry, fifth page of  
3 that document, please. And if we could blow up the only  
4 unredacted line of the document.

5 And in this document, Mr. Durham asked you some  
6 questions about Mr. Danchenko's reference to speaking on  
7 social media. Do you see that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. This wasn't a document that Mr. Danchenko prepared  
10 a response to a specific question you had asked him, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. This was him voluntarily providing you information  
13 through, I think, what's called an electronic drop?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And it appears that he's trying to clarify for you that  
16 you understand when he uses that term, it's over social media,  
17 correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay.

20 MR. SEARS: We can take that down.

21 BY MR. SEARS:

22 Q. I want to also show you Government Exhibit 119.

23 MR. SEARS: This has already been admitted and I'd  
24 ask to publish it, please.

25 THE COURT: You may.

1 (Exhibit published.)

2 MR. SEARS: And if we could go to the third page,  
3 please, Mr. Tent, to the only unredacted line.

4 BY MR. SEARS:

5 Q. So Mr. Durham asked you some questions about this. Do  
6 you recall that?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. And OAG refers to Ms. Galkina who we've been talking  
9 about today?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And he writes that her case details are in Greek,  
12 claims she can't travel until September, but I made a good  
13 pitch. We'll show our conversation here on other screens in  
14 the meantime. And we can turn to the page if you want, but I  
15 think we're all in agreement that he, then, sends you  
16 screenshots of a conversation or a back-and-forth over a  
17 messaging app with Ms. Galkina?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Okay. And again, that was not in response to any  
20 question you had asked him about communications he had had  
21 with anybody?

22 A. Correct. He --

23 Q. Or whether he had talked with anybody? He was  
24 voluntarily providing you information about communications he  
25 had with Ms. Galkina?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And you're not aware of any communications between  
3 Mr. Danchenko and Charles Dolan over social media  
4 applications, are you?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Or messaging applications?

7 A. Not that I'm aware of, no.

8 Q. Okay. Thank you.

9 Okay. So let's turn our attention to Mr. Millian.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. Ready?

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. You were asked on direct about what Mr. Danchenko had  
14 told you about his phone call over a messaging app with  
15 someone he believed to be Mr. Millian.

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. I'm sure you recall those questions, right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And if I could, you know, to summarize your testimony, is  
20 that Mr. Danchenko told you he had received a communication  
21 from a journalist with Mr. Millian's information?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Is that what you recall him telling you?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. And once he received Millian's contact information

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1 from this individual, he emailed Mr. Millian to try and set up  
2 a meeting or a phone call?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Is that what you recall from what he told you?

5 A. (No audible response.)

6 Q. Okay. Now, you never asked Mr. Danchenko for the copy of  
7 the emails that he referenced about receiving Mr. Millian's  
8 information or his email to Mr. Millian?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay. I think you testified that you don't even think  
11 you could have done that had you wanted to?

12 A. I wouldn't have been able to actually do legal process to  
13 get those emails --

14 Q. Right --

15 A. -- but I could have asked.

16 Q. You could have asked him to do it voluntarily?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And do you have any reason to believe that he wouldn't  
19 have provided you that if he had it?

20 A. I would have thought he would.

21 Q. Okay. Did he ever turn down any requests you've --

22 A. No.

23 Q. -- ever given him?

24 A. No.

25 Q. And he told you that shortly after he sent the email to

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1 Mr. Millian, he received a call through a messaging app from a  
2 man, a male who did not identify himself?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And that person on that phone call told him about  
5 contacts between the Trump campaign and Russian officials?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And do you remember him also telling you that the person  
8 on that phone call told him that it wasn't -- that contact was  
9 not necessarily a bad thing?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And Mr. Danchenko told you that during the course of that  
12 phone call, he made plans to meet that anonymous caller in the  
13 New York later that week?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And he told you that he actually went to New York and the  
16 individual who was on the other line of that call did not  
17 appear at the meeting place?

18 A. Right.

19 Q. And he told you that he wasn't sure who that person was,  
20 but he believed that person was Sergei Millian?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And he was -- explained his belief for that was the  
23 timing that he received that call after he had reached out to  
24 Mr. Millian; is that right?

25 A. That, and he also thought the voice sounded the --

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1 similar.

2 Q. Because he had listened to Mr. Millian on some YouTube  
3 video speeches, and the voice sounded similar to him?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. And he told you, did he not, that even after the  
6 missed meeting in New York, that he had reached back out to  
7 Mr. Millian to try and connect with him again?

8 A. It seems like I remember him asking that or saying that  
9 he did that.

10 Q. Okay. And are you aware that he told Mr. Auten, in  
11 January of 2017, that he had emailed Mr. Millian after the  
12 missed --

13 A. No.

14 Q. You were not aware of that?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Now, as Mr. Durham pointed out, you asked him on multiple  
17 occasions about this interaction with Mr. Millian?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Because it was an odd situation?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Is that fair?

22 A. That's fair.

23 Q. Is it also fair to say that the perception of the FBI at  
24 that time was that Mr. Danchenko may have been minimizing how  
25 much contact he had with Mr. Millian in that time frame?



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1 A. That would be the logical belief.

2 Q. That he was concealing from the FBI that maybe he had  
3 many more discussions with Mr. Millian?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. And you asked him about that conversation in  
6 March 16th of 2017; you asked him about that conversation in  
7 May 18th of 2017; do you recall that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And then October 24th, 2017, you asked him again about  
10 that interaction?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. As Mr. Durham pointed out to you, Mr. Danchenko said  
13 during that interview that he believed he had spoken to  
14 Mr. Millian -- that he believed the person he believed to be  
15 Mr. Millian a couple of times?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And that was all from what he had told you the previous  
18 times?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. But we don't have a transcript of that interview,  
21 correct?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Okay. That's just your recollection of what you put in  
24 your notes from that interview?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And that interview was on October 24th, correct; do you  
2 recall?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Okay. And I'll tell you -- and if you want to see it,  
5 I'll show you -- but you didn't write your report of that  
6 interview until November 13th of 2017?

7 A. Yeah, it's possible that it was that, or that was the one  
8 where maybe the computer -- we were having issues with the  
9 stuff uploading --

10 Q. Okay?

11 A. -- so I'd have to re-upload a couple of times, so it  
12 throws the dates off.

13 Q. Okay. So you can't be sure --

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. -- when it was exactly when you wrote that report?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. And you -- is it fair to say that you really kind of  
18 confronted him during that interview?

19 A. If there was any confrontation on that, it would have  
20 been the Sergei Millian because of the request by Brian to  
21 say, Hey, look this is -- this is what is contradictory. Can  
22 you push him on it just to see if there's anymore information.

23 Q. Right. And at least the way it read to me was that you  
24 really came out -- all right. How many times did you meet him  
25 face-to-face?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Trying to see if he was going to, all of a sudden, you  
3 know, reveal something he hadn't revealed yet?

4 A. Right.

5 Q. And he persisted that he had never met that person?

6 A. His answers were the same.

7 Q. Okay. He said he never met him in D.C., right?

8 A. Right.

9 Q. Never met him in Virginia? Never met him in South  
10 Carolina?

11 A. (No response.)

12 Q. And when you wrote the report, you included a note about  
13 that exchange; do you remember that?

14 A. I do remember the -- I don't remember exactly what the  
15 note was, but I do remember that there was a note on the back.

16 Q. Okay. Can you --

17 A. If you could refresh my memory.

18 MR. SEARS: Can we pull up Government's Exhibit 102.  
19 Government Exhibit 102.

20 THE WITNESS: Okay. Yeah, I see it here.

21 BY MR. SEARS:

22 Q. So --

23 A. I have it here.

24 Q. So just use it to refresh your recollection. Don't show  
25 it to anyone.

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1 A. I've read it.

2 Q. So does that refresh your recollection that you included  
3 a note that said that Mr. Danchenko was perplexed at the  
4 questioning as it appeared the handling agents, you and  
5 Mr. Rhule, did not believe him?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And that he didn't inquire as to the nature of why you  
8 were asking those questions?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Did you have any reason to believe at that time that  
11 Mr. Danchenko had known what Mr. Steele had told the FBI about  
12 his interactions with Mr. Millian?

13 A. I don't recall that, no.

14 Q. Do you recall that the FBI was intentionally not telling  
15 Mr. Danchenko what Mr. Steele had said?

16 A. I don't know -- I don't recall that, but that's  
17 definitely possible.

18 Q. Let me see if I can show you something that might refresh  
19 your recollection. I know it's been a while.

20 MR. SEARS: Can we pull up Exhibit 150. Can you  
21 look at Defense Exhibit 150.

22 THE WITNESS: 150?

23 BY MR. SEARS:

24 Q. 150. And is this -- before you start turning through the  
25 pages, does this appear to be a transcript of your interview

1 with the OIG?

2 A. It looks like it, yes.

3 Q. And you testified before the OIG on October 31st, 2018?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And you were under oath during that testimony?

6 A. I was.

7 Q. If you turn to page 121 -- and I'm looking at the top  
8 paragraph, but feel free to read back, you know, back a little  
9 to get your orientation or a little ahead, but when you're --

10 A. The top of 121?

11 Q. 121, where it begins with Mr. Helson.

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. And during your questioning with the OIG, you stated --  
14 and this was in the same context of, "You know, you said this  
15 and Chris is saying that."

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. (As read): "Well, we wouldn't let him know that Chris was  
18 saying whatever, but he's like -- and he's like, no, this is  
19 what -- what I said is how it happened. Chris is wrong."

20 He actually basically said, "No, Chris is -- he's  
21 completely wrong."

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And so, this was a time period when you guys were trying  
24 to keep what Mr. Steele was saying about what Mr. Danchenko  
25 had told him away from Mr. Danchenko?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. And you wrote -- and you can close that now. And  
3 you wrote -- going back to Government Exhibit 102, which was  
4 your memorandum of the interview of Mr. Danchenko -- you wrote  
5 in addition to that he didn't inquire about the nature of the  
6 questions regarding Mr. Millian, quote, "Mr. Danchenko's  
7 responses were consistent with what would be expected during  
8 this type of questioning."

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And that meant that his reaction to the line of  
11 questioning did not lead you to believe he was lying to you,  
12 correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. Okay. So I want to fast-forward to other issues with the  
15 dossier and Mr. Danchenko.

16 So is it fair to say that Mr. Danchenko took issue  
17 with a lot of how Mr. Steele had represented Mr. Danchenko's  
18 conversations with him in the dossier?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And there were parts where Mr. Danchenko would tell you  
21 that Mr. Steele had embellished or exaggerated what he had  
22 actually told him?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Well, with regard to his interactions with Mr. Millian  
25 and whether he had ever actually spoken to Mr. Millian

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1 definitively, he was pretty upset about that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. And he was kind of in disbelief you kept  
4 questioning him about it?

5 A. Yeah. That was probably the few times I saw him  
6 agitated.

7 Q. Okay. And he told you flat out, Why would I lie to you  
8 about it? Right?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. You -- at that time, as Mr. Durham pointed out, the FBI  
11 was paying him money to be a source of information, right?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. His life is also at risk based on what he's doing for the  
14 FBI at that time?

15 A. It is.

16 Q. And he's relying on the FBI, to some extent, for safety  
17 and security, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. He was also having immigration issues that he wanted the  
20 FBI to help him get resolved so he could stay in this country,  
21 right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And lying to the FBI about something like this would  
24 compromise his relationship with the FBI potentially?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And it would cut off the support he was getting from the  
2 FBI and the money potentially he was getting from the FBI?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Is that fair?

5 A. That is fair.

6 Q. And he wasn't shy about giving you info on Mr. Millian,  
7 right?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. He gave you two email addresses for him; do you recall  
10 that?

11 A. I do.

12 Q. Okay. He gave you a mobile phone number that he believed  
13 was his?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And despite all the times Mr. Danchenko was asked about  
16 that random strange interaction with the anonymous caller that  
17 he believed Mr. Millian, he never wavered in his position?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And you're aware that Mr. Durham and his team had been  
20 investigating Mr. Danchenko's claims about what he believed  
21 about that call, right?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And they've interviewed you on a couple of occasions as  
24 part of that investigation?

25 A. That is correct.

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1 Q. And you hired an attorney to represent you during those  
2 interviews; is that fair?

3 A. I did.

4 Q. And you represented [sic] a very prominent attorney, Mr.  
5 Koski?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. From a very prominent law firm, Covington?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And he's present in the courtroom today?

10 A. He is.

11 Q. Okay. And he was present with you during all of those  
12 interviews; is that fair?

13 A. He was.

14 Q. Now, during Mr. Durham's direct examination of you, he  
15 showed you some evidence that they uncovered during your  
16 investigation that you had never seen before. Do you remember  
17 that?

18 A. That's -- yes.

19 Q. There was some Facebook postings and some emails, right?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And they showed you an email, and we can pull it up if  
22 you would like, between Mr. Danchenko -- that Mr. Danchenko  
23 wrote to Mr. Millian after the alleged or supposed anonymous  
24 phone call. Do you remember that?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. And Mr. Durham asked you questions about the fact that  
2 the way the email read was if they had never had a phone call  
3 ever?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And I think you confirmed that that was a fair reading of  
6 that email?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And I think you already testified to this, but were you  
9 aware that Mr. Danchenko had told Mr. Auten about that email  
10 in January 2017?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. Were you also aware that he had provided them with  
13 an email during the January interviews between him and  
14 Mr. Zlodorev, which is the person he got Mr. Millian's contact  
15 information from in August?

16 A. No.

17 Q. He actually gave him a screenshot of the email?

18 A. No.

19 Q. You were not aware of that?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. And so I want to just ask you some questions. You  
22 do counterintelligence work, right?

23 A. I do.

24 Q. So I want to give you a hypothetical situation, if you  
25 don't mind?

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1 A. Okay.

2 Q. If you have any questions, let me know.

3 But let's say Mr. Danchenko receives an anonymous  
4 call from an individual who we'll call Sergei Millian in this  
5 example, okay?

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. Or he believes it's Mr. Millian, but he's not sure. And  
8 this person who calls him has information that's relevant to  
9 the work that Mr. Danchenko is doing. Are you with me?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. But the individual on the phone would not identify  
12 himself?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And so Mr. Danchenko can't be sure who it was, right, in  
15 that scenario?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And he sets up a meeting to meet with that individual and  
18 that individual doesn't show up. Are you with me?

19 A. Yep.

20 Q. If Mr. Danchenko was to reach out to him afterwards, an  
21 individual who wanted to remain anonymous apparently, wouldn't  
22 it make sense or isn't it reasonable for him to write an email  
23 as though they've never spoken before?

24 A. That's a possibility, yes.

25 Q. I mean, if he emails the guy and says, hey, we talked on

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1 the phone last week when he was trying to be anonymous, the  
2 guy's probably never going to talk to him again, fair?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. It's possible that that could be --

5 A. It's possible.

6 Q. So if you didn't want to acknowledge that you had a phone  
7 call with someone who is trying to be anonymous, it's not  
8 unreasonable to write the email the way he did?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Were you aware that Mr. Durham's team subpoenaed  
11 Mr. Danchenko's Amtrak train travel records?

12 A. No.

13 Q. As part of their investigation?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And you were not a part of their investigation of  
16 Mr. Danchenko?

17 A. No.

18 Q. You were only involved as far as being someone they  
19 wanted to interview, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Were you aware -- or did they show you when they were  
22 showing you all this other evidence they uncovered that you  
23 were not aware of, did they make you aware that the Amtrak  
24 records prove that Mr. Danchenko was in New York from  
25 July 26th to the 28th, that very week when he claims to have

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1 seen --

2 A. No.

3 Q. -- to have a meeting with who he thought was Mr. Millian?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Were you aware that they pulled Mr. Millian's travel  
6 records?

7 A. They may have mentioned it at one point in the interview.

8 Q. And when you say "in the interview," was this a recent  
9 interview, getting ready for trial?

10 A. Maybe. I'm not for sure. I can't recall if they --  
11 exactly when it was, but it seems like they may have mentioned  
12 it.

13 Q. Okay. And did they actually show you the records like  
14 they showed you those other emails that they've uncovered?

15 A. Not that I recall, no.

16 Q. And were you aware that Mr. Durham's investigation has  
17 revealed that Mr. Millian was on a flight, arriving in New  
18 York on July 27th, that same week --

19 A. No.

20 Q. -- that Mr. Danchenko believed he was going to have a  
21 meeting with the person he thought was Mr. Millian?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did they share with you evidence they had uncovered that  
24 Mr. Danchenko had sent a Facebook message to his wife from the  
25 Bronx Zoo in New York where he wrote, among other things,

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1 another meeting tonight on July 28th of 2016?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did they share with you when they were sharing you the  
4 evidence they had uncovered in their investigation, that  
5 Mr. Millian had been reaching out to George Papadopoulos who  
6 was a foreign policy advisor to President Trump at the time,  
7 during the same time frame or very close to it, that  
8 Mr. Danchenko believed he spoke to Mr. Millian?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Would you agree with me, Agent Helson, that those  
11 additional facts that were uncovered by the Durham team tend  
12 to offer some support for Mr. Danchenko's belief that the  
13 caller may have been Sergei Millian?

14 A. It could, yes.

15 Q. Agent Helson, it was no -- it was no secret, during the  
16 course of your relationship with Mr. Danchenko, that there was  
17 a discrepancy between how Mr. Steele described how  
18 Mr. Danchenko represented his interactions with Mr. Millian  
19 and how Mr. Danchenko told you he actually explained his  
20 interactions?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. It was no -- it was no secret. Everyone knew all  
23 along that there was a disconnect there?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And at no point during your entire time of meeting with

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1 Mr. Danchenko over those three years, did you ever walk away  
2 thinking that he was lying to you about anything; is that  
3 fair?

4 A. That's fair.

5 Q. In fact, for years after your conversations with  
6 Mr. Danchenko about his anonymous phone call with the person  
7 he believed to be Mr. Millian, you would submit reports  
8 indicating that he was a reliable source?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And some of those reports would even mention the Millian  
11 discrepancy and you would write that you believed that  
12 Mr. Danchenko had accurately reported the information as best  
13 you could recall?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. I want to show you what's been marked as Defendant's  
16 Exhibit 107.

17 Have you had a chance to look at that document?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What is that document, Agent Helson?

20 A. It is another one of my reports.

21 Q. Okay. And is this -- this is not kind of a routine  
22 report of a contact with Mr. Danchenko, correct?

23 A. It does -- no.

24 Q. Are you looking at 107?

25 A. I am looking at 107. It's dated 4/2/2019.

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1 Q. This is what's called a Field Office Annual Source  
2 Report?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And is this something that needs to be filed every year  
5 regarding all --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- the sources you're handling?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. And is it required?

10 A. It is required.

11 Q. Okay. And are you the individual who generated the  
12 information in this report?

13 A. It is -- I am.

14 Q. Okay. And I take it it's important to be truthful in  
15 these reports?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Running sources can be dangerous work, and you want to  
18 put in the good, the bad, and the ugly in these reports?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And you believed everything you wrote in that report when  
21 you wrote it, right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you indicated in that report that as of April 19th,  
24 any inconsistencies in Mr. Danchenko's reporting to you was  
25 minor?

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1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And that the information he had been providing you,  
3 during the course of his relationship as a source, had been  
4 corroborated?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And this report even addresses the inconsistency  
7 regarding the Millian issue?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Correct?

10 And this report that you generated says that  
11 Mr. Danchenko's position or story on the Millian situation  
12 never changed while the motivation of others came into  
13 question, right?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And that's Chris Steele?

16 A. That is true.

17 Q. Okay. And you indicated in this report that  
18 Mr. Danchenko, in your opinion, had been as accurate as he can  
19 be and, quote, there is no impact on his overall reporting?

20 A. Correct.

21 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, I would ask to admit this as  
22 Defense Exhibit 107.

23 THE COURT: Any objection?

24 MR. DURHAM: No objection, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Without objection, Exhibit -- Defense

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1 Exhibit 107 is admitted.

2 (Defendant's Exhibit No. 107 was admitted into evidence.)

3 BY MR. SEARS:

4 Q. And, Agent Helson, if you could turn to the next tab,  
5 which is Defense Exhibit 108?

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. Is this basically the same type of report, but that was  
8 filed in March of 2020?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. And I'm not going to make you go through  
11 everything we just went through, but take your time to read  
12 it. But is it fair to say that it basically says the same  
13 thing as --

14 A. The same thing.

15 Q. -- the previous year?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay.

18 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, for the same reason, I would  
19 move to admit Defense Exhibit 108.

20 THE COURT: Any objection?

21 MR. DURHAM: No objection.

22 THE COURT: Without objection, 108 is admitted.  
23 (Defendant's Exhibit No. 108 was admitted into evidence.)

24 BY MR. SEARS:

25 Q. Okay. You can close that book now, Agent Helson. Thank

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1 you. We're almost done. I promise.

2 You learned, through your meetings with  
3 Mr. Danchenko, that he had an impressive source of contacts?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. In Russia and the U.S.?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And he was always collecting cards and making new  
8 contacts?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And the info -- information that he was providing you  
11 while he was a source for you was actually being corroborated,  
12 correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. In fact, you even testified in the OIG testimony -- and  
15 this phrase has been said before -- but you said, "Holy shit,  
16 this is real" --

17 A. Right.

18 Q. -- "This guy really has helpful information"?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And it was a big deal for the FBI to have access to  
21 someone like Mr. Danchenko, wasn't it?

22 A. Yes, it was.

23 Q. During the course of his cooperation with you, he  
24 continued to provide information -- or more current  
25 information on people who had been referenced in the dossier

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1 at times, correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And one of them in particular was Mr. Abyshev --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- do you remember that? A-B-Y-S-H-E-V.

6 In fact, during your meetings with him as a  
7 confidential human source, he would actually let you listen  
8 in --

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. -- on conversations he was having, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And during the time that Mr. Danchenko was cooperating  
13 with you as a human source, he would give you the same caveats  
14 that he told you he had given Mr. Steele about the sources of  
15 his information, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. He would tell you what was rumor and what was fact?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. When he was personally making analytical judgments?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Or guesses?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And when he was making conclusions based on open source  
24 communications?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. Consistent with what he told you he told Mr. Steele?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And as Mr. Durham mentioned, the FBI was paying  
4 Mr. Danchenko for his information?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And his cooperation?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you, you personally as the handling agent -- more  
9 paperwork -- would have to submit approvals to get -- to get  
10 him paid?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And those -- those payments had to be justified by the  
13 information he was providing you --

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. -- right?

16 If he wasn't providing you good, useful, truthful  
17 information, he wouldn't get paid, right?

18 A. Right. It wouldn't get approved.

19 Q. And the reports that you had to file in order to get  
20 approval for the payments had to include information about why  
21 you believed the payment was justified, correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Okay. So I want to go through a couple of these, not all  
24 of them, but if you could turn to Defense Exhibit 109.

25 Is this one of those payment requests?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And this is in December of 2017?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And did you generate this form?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Is this a form that you were required to generate as part  
7 of your duties?

8 A. Yes.

9 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, I would move to admit  
10 Defense Exhibit 109.

11 THE COURT: Any objection?

12 MR. DURHAM: No objection, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Without objection, Exhibit 109 is  
14 admitted.

15 (Defendant's Exhibit No. 109 was admitted into evidence.)

16 MR. SEARS: If we could publish that, Mr. Tent,  
17 please, and blow up from "payment amount" down.

18 BY MR. SEARS:

19 Q. Agent Helson, the words on this document are your words;  
20 is that correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And beginning in the second sentence, what looks like the  
23 payment amount you're seeking approval for is \$10,900,  
24 correct?

25 A. Correct.

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1 Q. And you write in the second sentence that CHS -- which is  
2 Mr. Danchenko, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. -- provided critical reporting that aided in a top FBI  
5 investigation during this time period?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. In addition, he reported on four additional Washington  
8 Field Office priority investigations, correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And some of his reporting has been tagged by somebody as  
11 high value product, and that 25-plus potential IIR's for  
12 dissemination once operational risk is diminished?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And the operational risk was that you were worried about  
15 him being revealed as a source?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And you were worried what could happen to him if you did  
18 that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you were also worried that he wouldn't be able to get  
21 you the information that you wanted?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And could you explain what an IIR is, please?

24 A. It's an intelligence report that essentially goes out to  
25 the U.S. intelligence community, to pretty much all of our

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1 agencies. It provides them the information and then requests  
2 feedback on whether or not that information is good.

3 Q. And is it fair to say that it's raw intelligence?

4 A. What goes in an IIR is not necessarily raw. It's already  
5 been somewhat vetted and has been approved, but it is -- it's  
6 like raw-like.

7 Q. Does it have to meet some threshold --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- of corroboration or vetting before it will go out?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. As of November or December of 2017, you had an  
12 understanding that at least 25 reports, based on his  
13 reporting, had crossed that threshold?

14 A. Yes. I had checked with the intelligence division, and  
15 that's what they had kind of reported back to me.

16 Q. Okay.

17 MR. SEARS: If we can move to Defendant's  
18 Exhibit 110, please.

19 BY MR. SEARS:

20 Q. Is this another payment request?

21 A. It is.

22 Q. Did you generate this document?

23 A. I did.

24 Q. And this is April 11, 2018?

25 A. Correct.



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1 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, we would move to admit this  
2 exhibit.

3 THE COURT: Any objection?

4 MR. DURHAM: No objection.

5 THE COURT: Without objection, 110 is admitted.  
6 (Defendant's Exhibit No. 110 was admitted into evidence.)

7 MR. SEARS: And if we could publish, please,  
8 Mr. Tent?

9 THE COURT: Yes.

10 (Exhibit published.)

11 BY MR. SEARS:

12 Q. And this payment amount request is for \$10,000?

13 A. It is.

14 Q. And you write in the second sentence that Mr. Danchenko  
15 reported on five separate investigations currently opened by  
16 the government somewhere?

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. And in addition to the above, he had provided the first  
19 download of information that highlighted addition --  
20 additional, I'm assuming you meant -- cyber actors targeting  
21 the 2016 elections?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And it's -- you wrote that it's expected that additional  
24 reporting by Mr. Danchenko will continue to provide critical  
25 intelligence that will drive the above investigations,

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1 correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Okay. I'm only going to make you look at one more here.

4 If you could turn to Exhibit -- Defense Exhibit 112,  
5 please.

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. Are you familiar with this document?

8 A. I am.

9 Q. And this is an electronic communication that was sent, it  
10 looks like, on December 9th, 2019?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And did you generate this --

13 A. I did.

14 Q. -- communication.

15 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, I would seek to admit this  
16 as Defense Exhibit 112.

17 THE COURT: Any objection?

18 MR. DURHAM: No, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: 112 is admitted.

20 (Defendant's Exhibit No. 112 was admitted into evidence.)

21 MR. SEARS: And if we could publish it, please. So  
22 if you could do the top half of the page or quarter, Mr. Tent.

23 (Exhibit published.)

24 BY MR. SEARS:

25 Q. Okay. So under "synopsis," it appears that this document

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1 is being submitted to increase the amount of money the FBI can  
2 pay Mr. Danchenko, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And it's my understanding, correct me if I'm wrong, that  
5 every \$100,000 is different threshold that you can't exceed  
6 without getting approval?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And prior to this -- I didn't show it to you, to move  
9 things along -- you had submitted a request to get an increase  
10 from 100,000 to 200,000?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. In this document, is you seeking to increase it to  
13 300,000, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And you need to explain the justification for why?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay.

18 MR. SEARS: If we can do the next half, please.

19 BY MR. SEARS:

20 Q. And this page, in the middle of the page, you wrote that  
21 from 2017 until present, Mr. Danchenko provided information on  
22 at least 13 investigations and at least two other FBI Field  
23 Office investigations, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. In the bottom part of that screen that's been blown up

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1 says that since his reporting began, he's contributed to at  
2 least 19 reports with additional reports expected in the  
3 coming months, correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 MR. SEARS: And if you do the bottom paragraph,  
6 Mr. Tent, please.

7 BY MR. SEARS:

8 Q. You also indicated in this report (As read): "In addition  
9 to becoming a confidential human source for the United States,  
10 Mr. Danchenko also agreed to answer questions from the Senate  
11 select committee on intelligence." Correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And he did do that, to your knowledge, right?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And in addition to all of that, he's now providing  
16 information of possible or ongoing malignant influence efforts?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Ongoing Russian malignant influence efforts. Sorry.

19 MR. SEARS: We can take that down.

20 BY MR. SEARS:

21 Q. Mr. Helson, I gather from your reporting that you valued  
22 Mr. Danchenko's information?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you relied on it to send out intelligence information  
25 to other agents in the field, right?

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1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And to build cases?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. To build cases? And it's true that prior to  
5 Mr. Danchenko, you had almost no Russian influence cases?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And after him, you had several?

8 A. Over two dozen.

9 Q. Or 24?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. In fact, you testified before the OIG that, in your  
12 opinion, it would have been a huge win for the FBI if you were  
13 able to open up Mr. Danchenko earlier than you did?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Now, sometime in late 2017 or 2018, you're almost not  
16 asking any questions about Crossfire Hurricane anymore, right?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And Mr. Danchenko, as you just said, has turned into a  
19 valuable source?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. He is providing regular reporting?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. You're asking him to do things and he's doing them?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And as we all know, President Trump ended up winning the

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1 2016 presidential election, correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And he ends up putting in place a new attorney general,  
4 Mr. Barr, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you become aware that Attorney General Barr is now  
7 saying that he's going to order an investigation into how the  
8 FBI had handled the Carter Page FISA applications, correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And you were aware that, ultimately, Mr. Durham and his  
11 team were selected to carry out that investigation?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And just prior to Mr. Trump leaving office after he lost  
14 the 2020 election, Mr. Barr appointed Mr. Durham as special  
15 counsel to carry --

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. -- to carry out the investigation, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you were aware that Mr. Danchenko was becoming a  
20 target of exposure due to kind of the political divide in the  
21 U.S.?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. The dossier and Mr. Danchenko were like lightening rods  
24 at the time?

25 A. Correct.

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1 Q. Is that fair?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you don't care about politics personally, right?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You care about national security?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And you were concerned, in July of 2020, when you became  
8 aware that Attorney General Barr was going to release a  
9 redacted version of Mr. Danchenko's interview in January of  
10 2017?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. You were upset about that?

13 A. I was.

14 Q. You found out about that during a telephone conference,  
15 right?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. And you disagreed with that decision?

18 A. I did.

19 Q. The OIG had already completed a report on that  
20 investigation, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you thought that the release of that document was  
23 dangerous?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You even wrote up a memo of that phone call you were on

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1 in July of 2020 where you learned that they were going to  
2 publish a redacted version of his interview, correct?

3 A. I did.

4 Q. You had another agent sign it?

5 A. I did.

6 Q. And within an hour of Mr. Danchenko's January interview  
7 being released to the senate judiciary committee, the senate  
8 judiciary committee, I won't say who, released it to the  
9 public?

10 A. They did.

11 Q. And that concerned you, right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And it really concerned Mr. Danchenko, didn't it?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Because it didn't take long for the internet detectives  
16 to figure out who was being interviewed in January 2017?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And you had discussions with other agents about how the  
19 FBI could not protect Mr. Danchenko?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And ultimately a decision was made to close Mr. Danchenko  
22 as a confidential human source, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And the reason given was that Mr. Danchenko had confirmed  
25 to a newspaper that he actually was the person who was the

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1 primary sub-source?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And you understood, at that time frame, that  
4 Mr. Danchenko had already kind of been outed as the primary  
5 sub-source, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And he needed to defend himself, to some extent, in the  
8 press, correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. On October 21st of 2020, you drafted an electronic  
11 communication requesting a required expense and lump sum  
12 payment for Mr. Danchenko, correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And I'm going to ask you to turn to Defense Exhibit 117.

15 (A pause in the proceedings.)

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, that's. . .

17 BY MR. SEARS:

18 Q. Is that the electronic communication you requested?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you personally complete this document?

21 A. I did.

22 Q. And is this the type of document that you regularly have  
23 to complete when you request this type of payment?

24 A. Yeah, for something like this, you have to go to  
25 headquarters for that, and this is part of that communication.

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1 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, I move to admit Defense  
2 Exhibit 117.

3 THE COURT: Any objection?

4 MR. DURHAM: No, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: 117 is admitted.

6 (Defendant's Exhibit No. 117 was admitted into evidence.)

7 MR. SEARS: Can you publish it, please? Sorry.

8 (Exhibit published.)

9 MR. SEARS: And if you can go to the first page,  
10 please, Mr. Tent, and let's just blow up the first paragraph  
11 and heading.

12 BY MR. SEARS:

13 Q. So, Agent Helson, you wrote in October of 2020 that from  
14 2017 until present day, Mr. Danchenko had provided information  
15 on at least 25 FBI investigations assigned to at least six  
16 field offices?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. In addition, he aided the United States Government by  
19 introducing the United States Government to a sub-source who  
20 had provided additional information separate to his report,  
21 correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. You then wrote that due to sensitivities surrounding him  
24 and the potential threat to the personal safety of him and his  
25 family, the Washington Field Office was strategic in how to

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1 send in information that came from him, correct?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And his information now, in October of 2020, has  
4 contributed to at least 40 of those IIR's, correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And it's noted that he -- his reporting contributed to at  
7 least 25 active FBI investigations.

8 MR. SEARS: Can we do the last paragraph, first  
9 page? Actually, if we can skip to the second page. Sorry.

10 BY MR. SEARS:

11 Q. In July of 2020 his identity became public after the  
12 release of the redacted version of his interview in January of  
13 2017. Since that public disclosure, he has received  
14 threatening messages via social media and email. It's  
15 resulted in significant damage to his reputation from false  
16 and baseless claims aimed to undermine his credibility.

17 Those are your words, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. The Washington Field Office had assessed that this will  
20 have negative ramifications with respect to his ability to  
21 provide for his family via personal income for the foreseeable  
22 future, correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And while the FBI cannot promise complete anonymity to  
25 anyone who provides information, his identity became public

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1 only after the decision was made to release the redacted  
2 version of his interview, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. As a result of that act, his ability to continue to  
5 provide information viable to the FBI is diminished as is his  
6 ability to provide financial support to his family.

7 For those reasons and for the amount of money that  
8 was assessed that Mr. Danchenko was owed or would need to  
9 recover from what had happened, you put in a request for a  
10 total compensation package that included a lump sum payment of  
11 \$346,000, correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Which would have brought his total payments, had it been  
14 approved, to \$565,000 for the information he was providing our  
15 government?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And then you wrote (As read): "This payment is part of  
18 the FBI's commitment for ensuring the safety and security of  
19 this highly valued individual and his family, and will fulfill  
20 the FBI's commitment to properly taking care of those  
21 individuals who come forward to help our mission, at grave  
22 risk to themselves and their loved ones." Correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. Was that payment approved?

25 A. No.

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1 MR. SEARS: You can take it down.

2 BY MR. SEARS:

3 Q. Mr. Danchenko was a trusted source of the FBI, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. He not only did what was asked of him, but he would even  
6 provide information he came across on his own that he thought  
7 would be of interest to the FBI, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Do you remember a situation where Mr. Danchenko was  
10 overseas for business purposes and he was left alone in a  
11 conference room where there was some information or a chart --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- on a table or on the wall?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Tell the jury what he did when he was in that situation  
16 as you recall.

17 A. He took images of that fairly extensive chart, which was  
18 a pretty comprehensive review of professional influential  
19 links emanating out of Russia that crossed all of Europe and  
20 into the United States.

21 Q. Did anyone ask him to do that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. He took over 20 screenshots of that chart, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And the FBI was able to piece it back together based on

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1 his images?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Mr. Danchenko told you about people you had never even  
4 heard of who ended up being very important to the FBI's  
5 counterintelligence activity, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. You wouldn't have known to watch those people if it  
8 wasn't for him?

9 A. That's true.

10 Q. You never had -- tell me if it's still true today -- an  
11 informant with a comparable sub-source network as  
12 Mr. Danchenko?

13 A. Not since I've been at WFO.

14 Q. Is it fair to conclude that Mr. Danchenko had a high  
15 value for identifying potential intelligence officers or  
16 influencers?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. He had a high potential for identifying criminal targets?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Is it true what you said in your OIG testimony, that  
21 Mr. Danchenko reshaped the way the U.S. even perceives  
22 threats?

23 A. Yes, when he stood up a squad as a result of some of the  
24 reporting.

25 Q. The development of Mr. Danchenko, correct me if I'm

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1 wrong, was considered a model for developing sources going  
2 forward with the FBI?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you never had the impression during your meetings  
5 with him that he was anti-Trump, did you?

6 A. No.

7 Q. He didn't seem to have any sort of political leaning as  
8 far as you could tell, correct?

9 A. No. In fact, he was reporting on some things that were  
10 against Trump.

11 Q. Would you agree with me that losing Mr. Danchenko as a  
12 confidential human source harmed national security?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. There's a lot going on in Russia and Ukraine these days,  
15 correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Do you still get requests from agents in the field,  
18 asking you to ask Mr. Danchenko questions as related to what  
19 is currently going on in the world?

20 A. The last one was last month.

21 Q. And you can't go back to him, right?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Because the special counsel indicted him?

24 A. Yes.

25 MR. SEARS: No further questions, Your Honor.

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1 THE COURT: Okay. Any redirect?

2 MR. DURHAM: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Yes.

4 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. DURHAM:

6 Q. Sir, let me start here.

7 MR. DURHAM: I know it's running late and I'm not  
8 sure what time the Court wants to break.

9 THE COURT: We'll go until 6:00.

10 MR. DURHAM: Thank you, Your Honor.

11 BY MR. DURHAM:

12 Q. So counsel just asked you a long series of questions, a  
13 long series of matters, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Now, when Mr. Danchenko was being opened as a  
16 confidential human source, you had to fill out certain  
17 paperwork, didn't you?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And there's a whole form that needs to be completed,  
20 correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And one of the questions that's asked on that form is:  
23 Is there any derogatory information about the person that the  
24 Bureau is proposing to open as a confidential human source?

25 A. Correct.

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1 Q. Correct?

2 And you wrote on that form, with respect to  
3 Mr. Danchenko, that there was no derogatory information; isn't  
4 that correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And that's untrue?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. That was untrue when you wrote that on that document when  
9 Mr. Danchenko was first opened as a confidential human source,  
10 correct?

11 A. It was untrue, the fact that the case that was opened up.

12 Q. I'm sorry?

13 A. Previously like ten years ago.

14 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, could we approach on this,  
15 please?

16 THE COURT: Yes.

17 (Side bar.)

18 MR. SEARS: I don't know whether it was the intent  
19 for Mr. Durham to go into the counterintelligence  
20 investigation of 2009, but it sounds like this is where he is  
21 going.

22 MR. DURHAM: We didn't have a conversation since we  
23 last talked --

24 THE COURT: I'm going to let him bring out that  
25 there was a -- the fact of the counterintelligence

1 investigation was opened up.

2 MR. DURHAM: But I'm not going to get into the  
3 specific allegations against him.

4 THE COURT: You can -- you can bring out that it was  
5 closed for whatever reason it was closed. All right.

6 MR. DURHAM: Respectfully, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Because there was -- there were no  
8 determinations. They were allegations, correct? There was  
9 some information that was received that there was never --  
10 there were no findings, there were no prosecutions.

11 MR. DURHAM: With respect to this witness and his  
12 testimony, he wrote that there was no derogatory information,  
13 which is untrue.

14 THE COURT: All right. I think he -- you can bring  
15 that out that there was information -- there was derogatory  
16 information that had been received. All right.

17 MR. DURHAM: I don't want to go beyond what the  
18 Court will permit. The details -- I know you don't want the  
19 details of why they opened up the case, but where it was  
20 opened and --

21 THE COURT: What do you want to bring out  
22 specifically?

23 MR. DURHAM: That an espionage case was opened. It  
24 was opened by the Baltimore office. That they were looking at  
25 Mr. Danchenko's conduct for a period of a year-and-a-half, two

1 years. They closed it because they (indiscernible).

2 THE COURT: I'm going to let you bring all of that  
3 out. All right.

4 MR. SEARS: There was already additional  
5 information. I think the jurors know about, maybe, it came  
6 from Mr. Helson. He was aware of that.

7 THE COURT: That what?

8 MR. SEARS: Aware of that information that they  
9 continued to use him.

10 MR. DURHAM: He's fully aware of --

11 MR. SEARS: I just want to make sure that the jurors  
12 are aware that they were aware.

13 MR. DURHAM: I should -- I don't want to go beyond  
14 what the Court intends here, but Mr. Helson was fully aware of  
15 this because Mr. Auten was the intelligence analyst who was  
16 working on that case.

17 THE COURT: Okay. All right. I mean, it is a new  
18 subject area. I may let you have --

19 MR. SEARS: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: -- some follow-up questions and you can  
21 follow up on Mr. Sears' questions, all right?

22 MR. DURHAM: Yes, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: All right.

24 (Open court.)

25 MR. DURHAM: May I proceed, Your Honor?

1 THE COURT: Yes, please.

2 BY MR. DURHAM:

3 Q. Let me ask you again, with respect to the opening of  
4 Mr. Danchenko as a confidential human source, you filled out  
5 paperwork, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And in that paperwork, one of the important questions is:  
8 Is there any derogatory information about this person,  
9 correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And you wrote, there is no derogatory information?

12 A. Yeah, based on my search.

13 Q. And that is untrue?

14 A. It was there was a case on him.

15 Q. And what was the -- what was the nature of the case?

16 A. It was a counterintelligence investigation out of a  
17 different field office.

18 Q. It's a 65-day file, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Is that counterintelligence?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Of a particular type?

23 A. Yes, an espionage case. An espionage case.

24 Q. And with -- when you wrote there was no derogatory  
25 information, were you aware -- had you even looked to see if

1 there was any derogatory?

2 A. I had.

3 Q. And so you knew that there was that case?

4 A. I couldn't see it in the search.

5 Q. You knew that there had been an open FBI espionage case  
6 on Mr. Danchenko, correct?

7 A. Not at the time.

8 Q. Not at -- when --

9 A. Not at the time that I did the search. I learned about  
10 it after Brian Auten told me.

11 Q. Okay. Brian Auten who testified here -- to your  
12 knowledge, do you know Mr. Auten testified?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And Brian Auten was the person who was involved as an  
15 intelligence analyst in that prior matter, correct?

16 A. I believe so.

17 Q. And so you knew that there was a case, correct?

18 A. I knew after he told me, yes.

19 Q. Did you bother to go and seek access to that case so you  
20 would know what it was that the case was about?

21 A. I spoke to the case agent on that case.

22 Q. And with respect to the case agent, that was Special  
23 Agent Laura Peno, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And with respect to Ms. Peno, she had been in the

1 Baltimore office when this was opened?

2 A. That is correct.

3 Q. And you wrote, did you not, that she said that it was  
4 hearsay at best?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And that was untrue, wasn't it?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Do you recall, sir, whether or not you became aware of  
9 the actual basis for that case to have been opened?

10 A. It was that --

11 MR. DURHAM: I want to just be careful, Your Honor,  
12 that I don't go beyond instruction.

13 BY MR. DURHAM:

14 Q. You can't tell us what somebody said.

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. But did you read any of the underlying documents?

17 A. No.

18 Q. At some particular point in time, is it not true, Special  
19 Agent Helson, that the human validation unit at the FBI  
20 headquarters, people in that section of the department, had  
21 recommended to you actually read the file?

22 A. They actually said you should read the file, but it was a  
23 65-case and we don't get access to that.

24 Q. Yeah. You can get access through an investigative aids  
25 kit -- intelligence analysts get access to it, right?

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1 A. I have not been given access to a 65-case.

2 Q. You could have asked for access to that file so you knew  
3 before you wrote "no derog," what it was about?

4 A. I could have asked if I knew the case had existed.

5 Q. But you didn't do that?

6 A. Because I didn't know the case existed.

7 Q. Did you subsequently learn what it's about?

8 A. Yes, and then I called the case agent.

9 Q. And with respect to what that matter was about, again,  
10 without getting into the specifics of that, didn't you, in  
11 fact, learn that the FBI had a witness, a firsthand witness  
12 that they were relying on?

13 A. It was my understanding that they also had another person  
14 that contradicted that witness.

15 Q. The answer to my question is to whether or not the FBI  
16 had a person --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- firsthand information, correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you still wrote that there's no derog?

21 A. Because at the time I wrote that, I did not know that.

22 Q. Okay. Then did you go back, when you found out that  
23 there had been a open espionage case on Mr. Danchenko, to  
24 correct that?

25 A. We actually, at that point, requested the asset

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1 validation unit to do the review that you spoke of.

2 Q. My question to you, sir, was whether or not you ever went  
3 back in the paperwork for opening Mr. Danchenko as a  
4 confidential human source to correct the fact that you had  
5 written that there was no derogatory information?

6 A. No, no.

7 Q. Did you ever determine what happened to that case that  
8 was being run by Special Agent Peno?

9 A. It was closed.

10 Q. And did you determine why it was closed?

11 A. They believed he permanently departed the United States.

12 Q. And in point of fact, do you know whether or not, at that  
13 time, as the time they were getting ready to and then  
14 eventually did close the case, whether or not Mr. Danchenko's  
15 visa had expired?

16 A. I believe it had.

17 Q. And do you know whether he remained in the country  
18 despite that fact?

19 A. No, I don't know.

20 Q. Well, in all the investigation and background that you  
21 did, I guess you didn't learn whether he stayed in the  
22 country?

23 A. Well, I knew he had departed for a period of time, but  
24 then he came back like less than a year later.

25 Q. Do you -- you're not -- are you aware of the fact that he

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1 was supposed to depart the country and didn't?

2 A. No.

3 Q. You made reference to the human validation unit.

4 Do you recall, sir, whether or not when the human  
5 validation unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation did an  
6 evaluation regarding Mr. Danchenko, that one of the specific  
7 recommendations that was made was that there be a  
8 determination made about what was going on with his  
9 immigration status?

10 A. There was something to that effect, yes.

11 Q. Yeah. In fact, it's to determine whether or not there  
12 was fraud committed in connection with his immigration,  
13 correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Did you do that?

16 A. No. He went -- he had went to --

17 Q. Well, that's not my question.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. Did you do that?

20 A. No, no.

21 Q. To your knowledge, did anybody that's working on  
22 Crossfire Hurricane, Mr. Mueller's group or otherwise, ever  
23 run that to ground and do what had been recommended?

24 A. No.

25 Q. I'll come back to that --

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1 THE COURT: Well --

2 BY MR. DURHAM:

3 Q. -- in a moment. Let me go back to where --

4 THE COURT: Well, complete it, complete this issue.

5 MR. DURHAM: Yes, Your Honor.

6 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, I would object to anymore.

7 THE COURT: Yeah, let me see counsel.

8 (Side bar.)

9 THE COURT: What else do you want to ask this  
10 witness about this topic?

11 MR. DURHAM: About the human validation.

12 THE COURT: You've asked him that.

13 MR. DURHAM: Asked -- I'll finish it now.

14 THE COURT: Like what?

15 MR. DURHAM: I'm sorry?

16 THE COURT: Like what? What's the question?

17 MR. DURHAM: There were -- specific recommendations  
18 were made with respect to Mr. Danchenko that would -- evidence  
19 or information, testimony would be relevant and responsive to  
20 questions asked on cross-examination about his status as a  
21 confidential human source and whether or not there were issues  
22 relating to reliability and the like.

23 MR. KEILTY: He was asked to be recommended  
24 (indiscernible) polygraphs, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Well, is he aware of any of these

1 recommendations?

2 MR. DURHAM: Oh, he was there. He's aware.

3 MR. KEILTY: He's aware of all of that as far as the  
4 defendant's reporting mostly open source. This all goes  
5 directly how great of a source he was. The FBI in -- you  
6 know, unit in charge of this is saying the opposite.

7 THE COURT: All right. I'm going to let you ask him  
8 if he was aware of the recommendations, he personally. And  
9 then if he -- if he says he was, then you can get into it.

10 MR. DURHAM: Yes, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: I want you to close this out and then  
12 I'm going to let you ask these questions and go back to you  
13 and finish up your redirect.

14 MR. DURHAM: You want that to happen today?

15 THE COURT: Yes.

16 (Open court.)

17 MR. DURHAM: May I proceed, Your Honor?

18 THE COURT: Yes, yes.

19 BY MR. DURHAM:

20 Q. Mr. Helson, you made reference to the human validation  
21 unit. Do you recall, sir, whether or not you personally were  
22 aware of that, first, the evaluation was done?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And any recommendations that came from that?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. With respect to the recommendations that were made, do  
2 you recall, sir, whether or not there was a specific  
3 recommendation made that you or folks who were involved in  
4 Mr. Danchenko's handling, was to go and check and determine  
5 the specific purposes of his international travel and his --  
6 that his activities be monitored to confirm that he was  
7 conducting the travel he claimed he was conducting?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you do that?

10 A. The current ones from that on, I did. He reported when  
11 he would leave and when he would document that accordingly.

12 Q. All right. Well, what about looking at what he had said  
13 as compared to what the records showed? Did you do that going  
14 backward?

15 A. Not going backwards, no.

16 Q. Did they make a specific recommendation to you that the  
17 Bureau behavioral assessment group conduct an examination to  
18 determine what Mr. Danchenko's actual motives, allegiances and  
19 vulnerabilities were?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And did you do that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did they make a specific recommendation to you that with  
24 respect to the reporting that you've referred to, that it  
25 should be more precise and specific and not general open

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1 source information?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And did you do that?

4 A. We began isolating and down --

5 Q. Because --

6 THE COURT: Finish your answer.

7 MR. DURHAM: Oh, sorry.

8 THE WITNESS: We began to reduce it down into  
9 various topics in reducing the open source stuff.

10 BY MR. DURHAM:

11 Q. Because a great deal of the information that you are  
12 getting was just open source information, correct?

13 A. There was open source -- it wasn't -- like I would say  
14 40 percent, 50 percent, half and half, but that was critical  
15 to the understanding of the stuff that was an open source.

16 Q. Were you -- was it recommended that you do an assessment  
17 or to look at the financial nature of Mr. Danchenko's  
18 employment because of the concern that he may be prone to  
19 shopping around his information in search of work and  
20 pre-composing reporting containing unsolicited material, which  
21 may indicate the FBI is not the primary audience for his  
22 information?

23 A. Yeah, I saw that in the report.

24 Q. Did you do that?

25 A. No.

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1 Q. Was it recommended that the Washington Field Office  
2 determine whether Mr. Danchenko committed any unauthorized  
3 illegal activity for the apparent falsehoods and inaccuracies  
4 contained in his visa and immigration documents?

5 A. Yes, they recommended that.

6 Q. Did you do that?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Did they specifically recommend to the Washington Field  
9 Office and you that you considered administering a polygraph  
10 of Mr. Danchenko to determine if he has ever been tasked by a  
11 foreign individual, entity or government to collect  
12 information or to perform actions adverse to the U.S.  
13 interest?

14 A. They recommended that, yes.

15 Q. Did you do that?

16 A. No.

17 MR. DURHAM: That's what I would inquire about on  
18 this particular subject matter, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Sears.

20 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. SEARS:

22 Q. Agent Helson, I'll be brief.

23 Is it fair to say that everybody was full aware that  
24 there had been this counterintelligence investigation in 2009?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. At the time you opened Mr. Danchenko in March of 2017,  
2 you were not aware on that date of that counterintelligence  
3 investigation?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. You later learned, I think, maybe 60 days later?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Of that fact?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. And as a result of that, you went and spoke to the agents  
10 who had actually carried out that investigation?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Correct?

13 And it was your takeaway from your conversations  
14 with those agents that that case should have never been opened  
15 in the first place?

16 A. Correct, the way it was.

17 Q. Excuse me?

18 A. It shouldn't have been opened the way that it was.

19 Q. Correct. And do you recall that the plan, before it was  
20 closed down, was to try to use that investigation or  
21 opportunity to open up Mr. Danchenko as a source for the  
22 United States?

23 A. I did not know that.

24 Q. You were not -- were you informed then?

25 A. No.

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1 Q. Okay. Mr. Durham asked you a series of questions about  
2 source validation, human source validation?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Is that a pretty common practice anytime you're  
5 developing a high-level confidential human source?

6 A. Yes. That level of report usually goes -- reporting  
7 is used more for the more sensitive or politically charged  
8 sources.

9 Q. And would it be fair to say that that report would  
10 happen, in particular, for a Russian national who's providing  
11 information about a Russian --

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. In fact, you actually requested to have that validation  
14 report done?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Correct?

17 And I take it you didn't agree with everything they  
18 had to say?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You had real issues with at least one of the individuals  
21 who was involved with that validation report, correct?

22 A. I did.

23 Q. And you even sent some text messages, which I'm not going  
24 to show you, complaining about how poorly written or supported  
25 that report was?

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And you had actually drafted a rebuttal to that report?

3 A. I did.

4 Q. But at the end of the day, the conclusion of that report  
5 was: The information he's providing is so valuable, you  
6 should continue to operate him, but we recommend that you do  
7 these various things?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Right? So that's why he was continued to be operational  
10 after --

11 A. They recommended him to be operated.

12 Q. And is it fair to say -- and I'm not going to go through  
13 everything that Mr. Durham just read, but polygraphing a  
14 confidential human source is something you typically wouldn't  
15 do for any confidential human source, correct?

16 A. Typically not, but there are circumstances that we would.

17 Q. But in this situation, you didn't feel that was  
18 necessary?

19 A. Not at this point. It was always an option on the table.

20 MR. SEARS: Thank you.

21 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

22 MR. DURHAM: Did Your Honor say I could just follow  
23 up on that or...

24 THE COURT: Go ahead.

25 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

1 BY MR. DURHAM:

2 Q. So let me just ask you this: With respect to the person  
3 you had a conflict with, that was the person who was in the  
4 human validation unit, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And that person's opinion, based on everything that she  
7 had looked at, was that this is a real problem.

8 Wouldn't that be a fair statement?

9 A. Yeah, she also had --

10 Q. The answer to my question is yes?

11 MR. SEARS: Your Honor, that's not --

12 THE COURT: I'll let you answer more fully if you  
13 need to.

14 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry?

15 THE COURT: I'll let you answer more fully if you  
16 need to.

17 THE WITNESS: Yeah, she had also implied that he was  
18 a GRU officer, which was just simply not true.

19 BY MR. DURHAM:

20 Q. And you know that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did you polygraph him on that?

23 A. No. But there was nothing --

24 Q. But the person --

25 MR. SEARS: Can you please just let the witness

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1 answer?

2 MR. DURHAM: I'm sorry. Yeah, sure.

3 THE WITNESS: There's nothing in his history, his  
4 actions, anything that we know about him would indicate that  
5 he is an intel officer, period.

6 BY MR. DURHAM:

7 Q. The woman who made this recommendation, the comments she  
8 was concerned about, do you know what she did before she came  
9 to the Bureau?

10 A. She was an army counterintelligence officer.

11 Q. For how long was she an army counterintelligence officer  
12 in Europe?

13 A. 19 years, I think is what it was.

14 Q. 19 years. She said that you should look further,  
15 correct?

16 A. She did. But, however, army counterintelligence officer  
17 in Europe does not make you an expert in Russian SPR activity  
18 in the United States.

19 Q. Okay. So then with respect to the question that counsel  
20 asked you about, well, concerning continuing to operate, the  
21 human validation unit doesn't have the authority to shut a CHS  
22 down, correct?

23 A. If they recommend closure, we have to close.

24 Q. But they no longer recommend closure on anybody, right,  
25 because of the conflict with the field?

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1 A. I'm not aware of that, but...

2 Q. And isn't it, in fact, true in this case that with  
3 respect to the specific, usually touched on recommendations,  
4 like polygraphing the person had this controversy surrounding  
5 him, that didn't happen? You didn't do it?

6 A. No.

7 Q. And with respect to counsel's question concerning the  
8 opening, you disagree with the opening in the case in  
9 Baltimore?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Would it be a fair statement, sir, that you've disagreed  
12 that it should have been opened as a 65A-case as opposed to  
13 105-case?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And that's sort of inside FBI paperwork, isn't it?

16 A. It's a little more than that.

17 Q. Yeah. In this particular case, did you ever determine  
18 what the underlying reason was for Special Agent Peno and her  
19 colleagues to have opened that 65-case on Mr. Danchenko?

20 A. The -- it was -- I was told that it was about the  
21 conversation or what he had said.

22 Q. Okay. And did you pursue that any further?

23 A. No, I was speaking with the case agent.

24 Q. Okay. Let me ask this because it's six -- well, it's  
25 5:59, so let me finish this today.

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1 Do you recall, sir, whether or not you or any of  
2 your colleagues who were looking at the dossier and trying to  
3 corroborate the information there, did you or anybody to your  
4 knowledge in the FBI attempt to run to ground and complete or  
5 conclude, resolve that case that had to be closed because the  
6 FBI mistakenly thought he had left the country? Anybody do  
7 anything to resolve that?

8 A. No.

9 THE COURT: All right.

10 MR. DURHAM: This may be a good place to break, Your  
11 Honor.

12 THE COURT: Thank you. Yes. All right. And this  
13 is -- just so we're clear, this closes out this issue. You  
14 can continue redirect tomorrow morning.

15 Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to release you until  
16 tomorrow morning at 9:30. Please do not discuss this case  
17 among yourselves or anyone outside of the courthouse during  
18 the evening recess. We'll see you tomorrow morning.

19 (Jury dismissed.)

20 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Durham, how much longer  
21 do you have with Mr. Helson?

22 MR. DURHAM: I would say maybe half an hour.

23 THE COURT: All right.

24 MR. DURHAM: I don't think much more than that, Your  
25 Honor.

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1 THE COURT: All right. And what's the lineup for  
2 tomorrow?

3 MR. DURHAM: The lineup tomorrow would be Brittany  
4 Hertzog and then Special Agent Amy Anderson, and then I think,  
5 in all likelihood, we get to Special Agent James.

6 THE COURT: All right. Are we still on track for  
7 completing by tomorrow midday?

8 MR. DURHAM: I think -- I believe so, yes, Your  
9 Honor.

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 MR. DURHAM: Maybe afternoon, but I -- we'll be done  
12 tomorrow, yes.

13 THE COURT: All right. Great. All right.

14 MR. DURHAM: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Agent Helson, do not discuss your  
16 testimony during the evening recess. You're to report here  
17 tomorrow morning at 9:30.

18 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you, sir.

19 THE COURT: Court will stand in recess. See counsel  
20 at 9 o'clock.

21  
22 **(Proceedings adjourned at 6:01 p.m.)**  
23  
24  
25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Tonia Harris, an Official Court Reporter for the Eastern District of Virginia, do hereby certify that I reported by machine shorthand, in my official capacity, the proceedings had and testimony adduced upon the Jury Trial in the case of the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA versus IGOR Y. DANCHENKO**, Criminal Action No.: 1:21-cr-245, in said court on the 13th day of October, 2022.

I further certify that the foregoing 167 pages constitute the official transcript of said proceedings, as taken from my machine shorthand notes, my computer realtime display, together with the backup tape recording of said proceedings to the best of my ability.

In witness whereof, I have hereto subscribed my name, this October 13, 2022.



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Tonia M. Harris, RPR  
Official Court Reporter